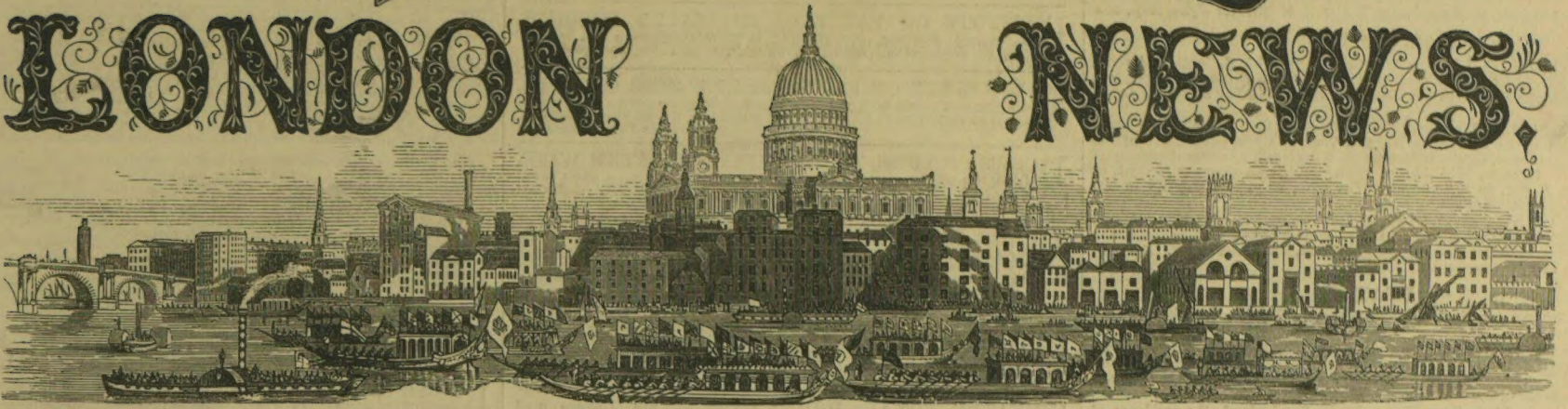


THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS

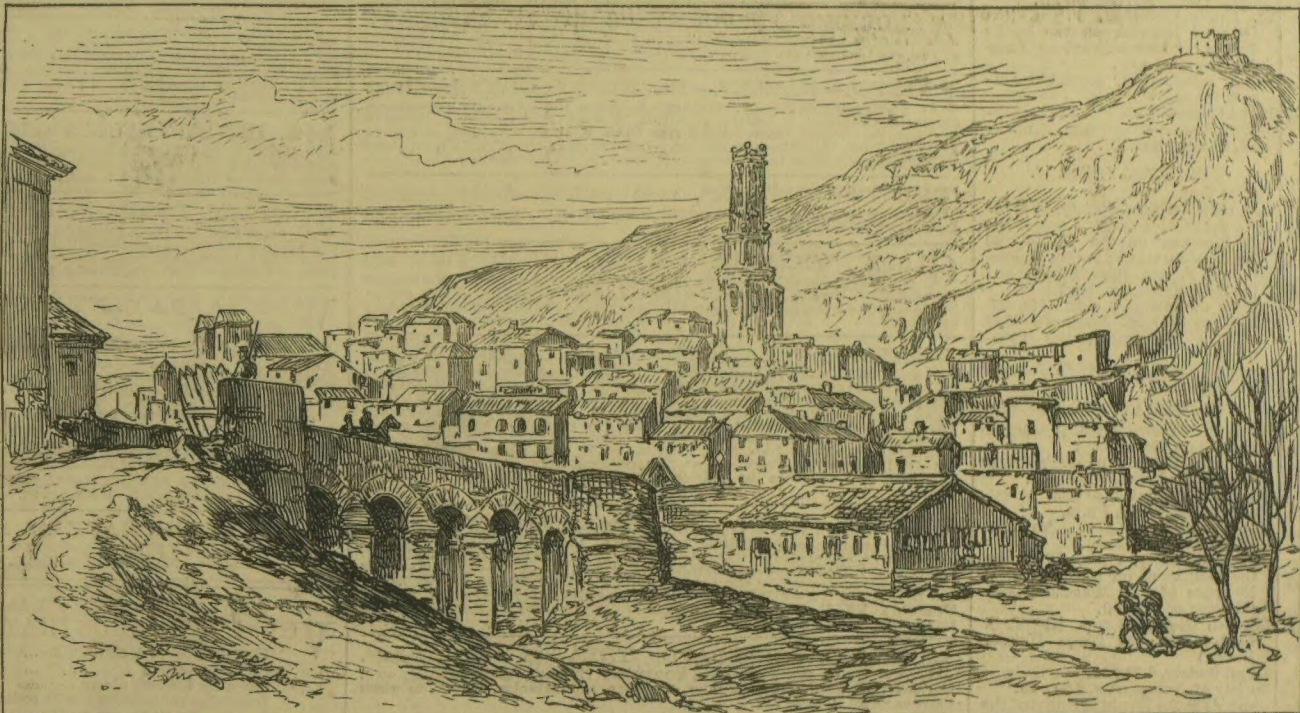


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No. 1853.—VOL. LXVI.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1875.

WITH EXTRA SUPPLEMENT { SIXPENCE.
By Post, 6d.



1. PERALTA, HEAD-QUARTERS OF KING ALFONSO IN NAVARRE. 2. KING ALFONSO REVIEWING TROOPS AT FALCES.
THE WAR IN SPAIN.

Government may occur. Midway between these two portions there is a link of connection, like the waist of a wasp, which more or less adroitly reminds the House of Commons that it is their characteristic duty to vote needful supplies. The Royal Speech on Friday last, which we need hardly inform our readers represents the aggregate mind of the Cabinet, and not necessarily the personal opinions and sentiments of the highest personage of the realm, was deftly put together. It is not always the case. Joint composition is ordinarily, as to construction, loose composition. Sentences thrust in to satisfy this or the other member of the Cabinet are very apt to dislocate the unity of the speech. It was not so this year. The document was somewhat longer than customarily it has been, but it was clear and connected. It did not tell us much, but it told what it had to tell in an intelligible and even graceful style.

It did not tell us much, simply because there was not much to tell. We are all tolerably familiar with the events of the Recess. The Brussels Conference, the Alfonsist Revolution in Spain, the now settled difference between China and Japan, the successful effort to avert the consequences of the Famine in India, and the friendly disposition towards the Court of St. James's evinced by all surrounding Foreign Powers (to say nothing of the Gold Coast, or of Fiji) are not topics upon which much novelty is expected. What is said of such matters is commonly in the "touch-and-go" style, indicating in a word or two the existing state of affairs, and the point of view in which they present themselves to her Majesty's advisers. The announcements made as to the measures to be brought before Parliament are, of course, new, and, though not of stirring interest, are not devoid of importance. The outline of work cut out by the Cabinet for the occupation of Parliament during the Session is, as we anticipated some weeks since, modest and unambitious; social, rather than political; likely enough, if completed, to be useful, but not showy.

The debate on the Address seldom indicates in either House of Parliament the actual character of the Session. In most cases it is but an amplification of the topics contained in the Royal Speech. It was emphatically so on Friday last. There was very little to criticise, and consequently very little criticism. Of that little the greater part was somewhat strained. As mere talk, however, upon given subjects, the discussion in both Houses exhibited considerable rhetorical talent. Lord Granville is always pleasant. His strength of hand is little observed because his touch is so light. He was quite himself in the first debate of the Session; but it was no fault of his that the occasion admitted of no adequate display of his power as a speaker. In the House of Commons the Marquis of Hartington, the recently-chosen leader of the Liberal Opposition, travelled over much the same line as Lord Granville, though not at the same easy and ambling pace. Mr. Disraeli, apparently well recovered from his serious illness, and pleased to find himself once again in the arena of his former efforts and triumphs, was in the best of humours—kindly, gay, sparkling, and not unmindful of his responsibility. Nothing could make the debate deeply interesting, but in both Houses there played over it a mild iridescence of rhetorical animation.

The business already brought under the notice of Parliament is of a solidly useful kind, and we hope it may be carried to completion. The topics for talk, announced by independent members, are numerous and varied, though we cannot say that any of them strike us as fresh. In regard to this latter region of Parliamentary debate, one Session largely resembles another. It must needs be so, just as the fields of the agriculturist present much the same appearance every springtide. There is a time for sowing seed, and there is a time for reaping the harvest. The growth or failure of the seed sown is determined by unseen but inexorable laws. Some things die because they have no true germ of life in them; others become developed, and at last bear fruit. All must be talked about again and again before their virtue or their worthlessness is recognised by the public mind. One of the chief functions of Parliament is the discussion of questions not yet practically solved; and the notice paper, as it now stands, gives assurance that this function will by no means be neglected during the present Session—by the House of Commons, at least.

The Queen has conferred the vacant ribbon of the Order of the Thistle upon the Marquis of Bute.

The Earl of Dunmore has been appointed by Her Majesty to the post of Lord Lieutenant of the county of Stirling.

The Duke of Edinburgh will preside at the sixty-ninth anniversary festival of the Society of Friends of Foreigners in Distress, on April 21, at Willis's Rooms.

The laying out of that portion of the Thames Embankment which lies between Outram's statue and Whitehall-Gardens is being rapidly proceeded with; and (according to the *Garden*) the Crown has undertaken to erect an ornamental wall at the western boundary of the garden.

King Frost appears to have become an active member of a Society for the Suppression of Racing, and no sooner is a meeting about to take place than he steps in and puts a stop to the sport. The Birmingham fixture has once more suffered from a postponement, but this time for only a single day, and it was commenced on Wednesday. The fields were pretty good; but, beyond the repeated successes of the first favourites, there was nothing calling for special comment.

THE COURT.

The Queen and Princess Beatrice remain at Osborne House.

Prince Leopold continues to make satisfactory progress. His Royal Highness is now able to sit up for a short time daily.

The Marquis of Lorne arrived at Osborne yesterday week and left the following day, accompanied by Princess Louise (Marchioness of Lorne), for London.

Her Majesty and Princess Beatrice attended Divine service on Sunday at Osborne. The Rev. George Connor officiated.

The Right Hon. Stephen Cave, Judge Advocate General, had an audience of her Majesty on Monday.

The Duke of Saxe Coburg and Gotha, attended by Count Schwerin and Lieutenant-General Sir Francis Seymour, arrived at Osborne on Tuesday, on a visit to the Queen.

Her Majesty and Princess Beatrice have driven to Ryde and other places in the Isle of Wight.

The Queen has appointed the Rev. George Henry Connor, M.A., Honorary Chaplain to her Majesty, Rural Dean and Vicar of Newport, Isle of Wight, to be one of the Chaplains in Ordinary to her Majesty; and the Rev. Henry Montagu Butler, D.D., Head Master of Harrow School, to be Honorary Chaplain to her Majesty.

The Marchioness of Ely has left, and the Hon. Mary Pitt has arrived at Osborne; and the Hon. Harriet Phipps has succeeded the Hon. Horatia Stopford as maid of honour in waiting to her Majesty.

THE QUEEN'S LEVEES.

The Prince of Wales will, by command of the Queen, hold Levées at St. James's Palace on behalf of her Majesty on Monday, Feb. 22, and on Monday, March 1, at two o'clock. It is the Queen's pleasure that presentations to his Royal Highness at the Levées shall be considered as equivalent to presentations to her Majesty.

THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES.

The Prince of Wales returned to Marlborough House on Saturday last from Brussels. The Princess of Wales, accompanied by Prince Albert Victor, Prince George, Princess Louise, Princess Victoria, and Princess Maud of Wales, arrived at Marlborough House on Monday from Sandringham. The Princess went to the Monday Popular Concert, at St. James's Hall, in the evening; and the Prince attended a meeting of the Royal Geographical Society. On Tuesday the Prince presided at a meeting of the Council of his Royal Highness, held at the office of the Duchy of Cornwall, Buckingham-gate. There were present the Earl of Leicester, Mr. George Loch, Sir Thomas M. Biddulph, Sir William T. Knollys, and Sir William G. Anderson. Mr. Wilmshurst, the secretary, attended as Clerk of the Council. Princess Louise (Marchioness of Lorne) and the Marquis of Lorne visited the Prince and Princess, on Tuesday, and partook of luncheon with their Royal Highnesses and the Duke of Saxe Coburg and Gotha. The Prince and Princess received the French Ambassador and Countess de Jarnac, and the Russian Ambassador (Count Schouvaloff), on Wednesday afternoon. The Duke of Cambridge and Prince Christian visited the Prince and Princess, and remained to luncheon. In the evening the Prince, attended by Major-General Probyn, dined with the Russian Ambassador, at his residence, Chesham House.

The Countess of Maclesfield has succeeded Miss Knollys as Lady in Waiting to the Princess.

The Duke of Cambridge had a dinner-party, on Saturday last, at Gloucester House.

His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland gave his first ball for the season at Dublin Castle, yesterday week. Dancing took place in St. Patrick's Hall. The Duchess of Abercorn has left for the south of France.

Her Excellency the Countess de Jarnac's receptions and dances at the French Embassy will not take place during Lent.

The infant daughter of the lamented Countess of Carnarvon was christened on Thursday morning at the Chapel Royal, Savoy. The ceremony, which was exceedingly impressive and solemn, the family appearing in deep mourning, was performed by the Rev. Henry White, chaplain to the Queen. The sponsors were the Marchioness of Ely (representing her Majesty), the Countess of Derby, and the Marquis of Salisbury. Lord Carnarvon, with his children, was present. The name of the infant, who was born on Dec. 30 last, is Victoria Alexandrina Mary Cecil (Herbert). The service was choral.

THE WAR IN SPAIN.

The young King of Spain, Alfonso XII., has joined his army in Navarre, and has been present at a battle, fought on Thursday week, in which the Carlists were driven off the road leading to Pampeluna, and were forced back on Estella. They, on the other hand, claim a victory, talking of hundreds of Alfonsists killed or wounded, thousands of prisoners, and several captured guns. We have received from our French correspondent at the King's head-quarters, M. Dick de Lonlay, a panoramic view of the entire battle-field, extending several miles along and above the road from Tafalla to Pampeluna, and commanding the valley of Carrascal and the intrenchments of Lerga, from which the Carlists were dislodged by the combined forces of General Primo de Rivera and General Despujols. The Alfonsists next captured Punta de la Reina, and halted at the hermitage of St. Cristobal, on Mount Esquinza, only four miles from Estella, and east of that town. One column, it is confessed, met with a severe check at Lorca or Larcar. As they would next have to attack the fortified position of Santa Barbara, operations were suspended. General Moriones was in command at Pampeluna. The Spanish Army of the North consists of eighty battalions of infantry, eight regiments of cavalry, thirteen batteries of field artillery, five batteries and two companies of mountain artillery, twenty companies of engineers, two companies of sharpshooters of the north, and one officer and forty civil guards or gendarmes of infantry at head-quarters. Of all this vast mass of men, only one brigade is quartered at Logrono; the remainder of the corps, serving under the immediate orders of the Commander-in-Chief, are lodged as they can be in the neighbouring towns and villages, the army having no tents, and never camping out except when overtaken by night at the close of an engagement.

The King was at Pampeluna last Saturday and Sunday. He left that city on Monday for Logrono, where he visited the aged Espartero, chief of the Liberal party, and formerly Regent during the infancy of Queen Isabella. Their interview was most cordial, but Espartero is so infirm that he cannot rise from his chair. He gave the King his Grand Cordon of St. Ferdinand, and received from his Majesty the Order of Charles III. The King has since returned to Madrid.

Our two illustrations in this week's paper, from sketches by M. Dick de Lonlay, represent the small town of Peralta, where King Alfonso sojourned from the 22nd to the 28th ult.; and the review of the Fajardo division by his Majesty, on the 25th, at Falces. We expect very shortly to receive other sketches from our Special Artist, Mr. Melton Prior (the same who was in the Ashantee War), having sent him to Spain for this particular service.

THE CHURCH.

Dr. Weldon Champneys, Dean of Lichfield, who was appointed in 1868, died on Thursday week; and the Venerable Owen Davys, Canon of Peterborough and Archdeacon of Northampton, died last Monday, after a short illness.

Mr. W. Roundell, of Shipton, Yorkshire, has placed a painted window in the burial chapel of Knaresborough Church, in memory of his parents, sister, and brothers. The window is from the studio of Messrs. O'Connor and Taylor.

As a memorial to the late Canon Kingsley, it has been determined to enlarge and improve the parish church at Eversley, and to erect a chapel in the outlying hamlet of Bramshill, where Mr. Kingsley for some years held a service in a small school-room.

The Rev. P. J. Drake, Curate of Datchworth, Herts, has been presented with a valuable clock and surplice by the parishioners of Datchworth on the occasion of his leaving that parish to take up his appointment as Curate to the Rev. W. H. Pritchett, St. Paul's, Charlton, Kent.

The Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol, on Monday, presented the Rev. Dr. Hayman, late Head Master of Rugby School, on behalf of a large body of subscribers, with a handsome classic silver-gilt vase and a purse of money, value £460, being the balance of a sum of upwards of £2000 subscribed to the Hayman Defence and Testimonial Fund.

The restoration of the grand old abbey at Tewkesbury has been begun. It will comprise the renovation of the choir as far as the eastern arch of the tower, the four eastern bays of the nave, the tower with its northern, southern, and western arches, the stalls, and other fittings of the choir. An abortive attempt at raising the necessary funds was made some years ago; but a subscription has now been opened, to which £2400 has been contributed.

There will be a short service and sermon in St. Paul's Cathedral every Tuesday evening during Lent, at eight o'clock—the Dean of Norwich to be the preacher; and a course of lectures will be delivered in the Church of St. Michael, Wood-street, at eight o'clock on Friday evenings during Lent, by the following distinguished preachers—the Rev. Prebendary Cadman, Canon Miller, Bishop Claughton, the Rev. Gordon Calthorp, the Rev. Daniel Moore, and Professor Stanley Leathes. Young men are especially invited to attend these lectures, which will not last beyond an hour.

THE UNIVERSITIES AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

The electors to the Boden Sanskrit Scholarship, Oxford, have elected Mr. James Wilson, commoner of Balliol College, to the vacant scholarship. Mr. John Holdsworth Fisher has been elected to an exhibition offered for unattached students by the Clothworkers' Company for the encouragement of the study of natural science.

At Cambridge, Mr. Burnside, Pembroke, and Mr. Chrystal, St. Peter's, who were bracketed second in the Mathematical Tripos, have been awarded the Smith prizes.

Lord Derby will visit Edinburgh in November to deliver his inaugural address as Lord Rector of the University.

The students of Aberdeen University have resolved to invite Mr. Gladstone to become a candidate for the Lord Rector's chair, Professor Huxley declining to be re-elected.

Dr. J. Emerson Reynolds, Professor of Chemistry to the Royal College of Surgeons, Ireland, and to the Royal Dublin Society, has been elected Professor of Chemistry to the University of Dublin.

Lord Selborne has been appointed a member of the governing body of Winchester School, in the place of the Dean of St. Paul's, who has resigned.

A meeting was held, on Wednesday, at Mr. Holloway's, in Oxford-street, for the purpose of discussing that gentleman's scheme for the establishment of a University for ladies. Mr. James Beal occupied the chair; and among those present were Mr. Samuel Morley, M.P., Mr. D. Chadwick, M.P., Mrs. Fawcett, Mrs. Grey, Mrs. Arnold, Mrs. Pennington, Mr. Fitch, Sir James Kay-Shuttleworth, Mr. Arthur Arnold, and Dr. Hague, of the Vassar College for Women in the United States. Mr. Holloway stated that he had purchased a site at Egham, at a cost of £25,000, and had appropriated a quarter of a million for carrying out his scheme; but that, if more were necessary, he should be prepared to give it. When completed he should hand the institution over to the nation. The University is intended to accommodate 400 students. A committee was appointed to prepare a scheme.

THE VOLUNTEERS.

In opening the proceedings at the annual distribution of prizes to members of the 22nd Middlesex last Saturday, the Duke of Westminster delivered an address, in which he gave a satisfactory account of the condition of the corps. Afterwards his Grace's daughter, Lady Elizabeth Grosvenor, handed the prizes to the winners, and in the evening the regimental supper took place under the presidency of Lieutenant-Colonel Bashi.

Lady John Manners distributed the prizes, at Guildhall, to the marksmen of the 49th Middlesex (Post Office)—the Lord Mayor presiding, and Lord J. Manners being among the guests.

Resolutions were passed at a meeting of metropolitan commanding officers proposing that a volunteer review should be held on Easter Monday, if practicable, and appointing a committee to ascertain whether the proposal could be carried out, and if so, where, and in what manner.

The winter general meeting of the National Rifle Association will be held at the Royal United Service Institution, Whitehall-yard, on Wednesday, March 3—the Duke of Cambridge, K.G., president of the institution, in the chair.

A dense fog prevailed over the south-west of Scotland on Monday, and some fatalities are reported.

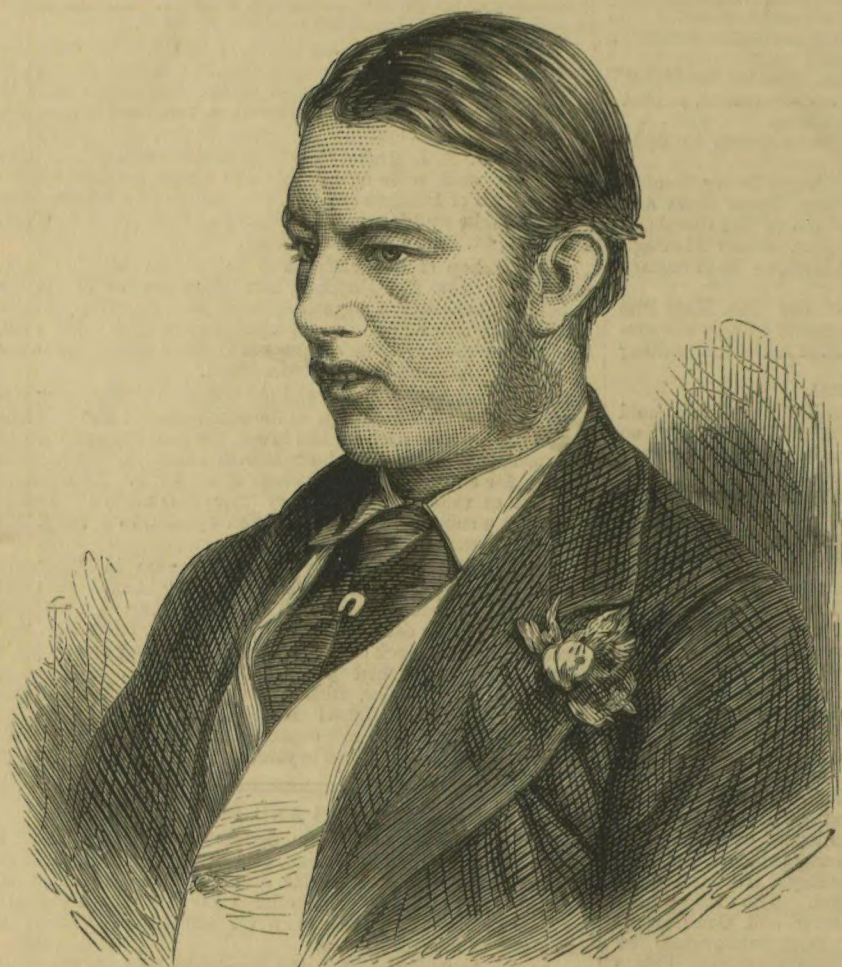
The fourteenth exhibition of the Glasgow Institute of Fine Arts was opened last week by a conversazione.

The Admiralty regulations respecting medical officers in the Navy are published. There are to be two grades, and each will have a uniform slightly different from the other.

The Dorset Yacht Club has been organised at Weymouth, and the Prince of Wales has signified his intention of becoming a member. Lord Richard Grosvenor and the Earl of Eldon will be commodore and vice-commodore.

In his report to the house of Commons on the trial of the Stroud election petition, Mr. Baron Pigott says he had no reason to believe that corrupt practices extensively prevailed.—Mr. W. H. Stone, Liberal, and Mr. J. E. Gorst, Conservative, were on Wednesday nominated as candidates for the representation of Chatham. The polling will take place to-day (Saturday).—On Thursday morning the Hon. David R. Plunket, Q.C., Solicitor-General for Ireland, was re-elected without opposition as one of the representatives of Dublin University.

MOVERS AND SECONDEES OF THE ADDRESS IN PARLIAMENT.



EARL OF DONOUGHMORE.



LORD RAYLEIGH.

THE EARL OF DONOUGHMORE.

The selection of the Earl of Donoughmore to move the Address in answer to the Speech from the Throne, in the House of Peers, revives, as it were, a name once familiar in that assembly. For the father of the noble Lord was an active and prominent member of the Conservatives, and held office in two of the Governments of Lord Derby, first as Vice-President and afterwards as President of the Board of Trade. The present Earl, John Luke George Hely-Hutchinson, Earl of Donoughmore, Viscount Suidale, Baron Donoughmore, of Knocklofty, in the Peerage of Ireland, and Viscount Hutchinson in the Peerage of the United Kingdom, was born in 1848, and succeeded as fifth Earl, on the death of his father, in 1866. He is understood to be accomplished, of active and inquiring habits, and to have had the advantages derivable from much travel. He married, at Hobart Town, Tasmania, the daughter of Colonel Stephens. Until now he has not put himself forward much as

a debater in the House of Lords; but the speech which he delivered on the opening night of the Session was one that gives assurance of his capacity to take his due share in the deliberations of the branch of the Legislature to which he belongs.

LORD RAYLEIGH.

The seconder of the Address, John William Strutt, Baron Rayleigh, of Tarling Place, in the county of Essex, was born in November, 1843; was educated at Trinity College, Cambridge, of which college he was a Fellow; and succeeded his father, the first Baron, in 1873. The peerage came into the family of Strutt by the marriage of Colonel J. H. Strutt, a grandson of the first Duke of Leinster, and a cousin of Lord de Ros, with Catherine Mary Gertrude, Baroness Rayleigh, whose son, the late Peer, succeeded to her barony. The existing Lord Rayleigh married, in 1871, Caroline Georgiana Mary, second daughter of Mr. James

Monkland and Lady Blanche Balfour. Up to the present time the noble Lord has not come prominently forward in the House of Lords; but on Friday last his speech showed him to be possessed of powers adequate to assist in the maintaining of debate.

THE HON. EDWARD STANHOPE.

According to custom, the moving of the Address of the Commons, in reply to her Majesty's Message, was committed to the charge of a member who might be supposed to represent the territorial interest of the country. This gentleman is the Hon. Edward Stanhope, second son of the fifth Earl Stanhope and brother to Viscount Mahon, who sits for East Suffolk, and is a Lord of the Treasury in the present Government. Mr. Stanhope himself is member for Mid-Lincolnshire. He was born in 1840, and married, in 1870, Lucy Constance, youngest daughter of the late Rev. Thomas Egerton and niece of Lord Egerton of Tatton. He was educated at



HON. E. STANHOPE.



MR. A. WHITELAW.



*Drawing Valentines by
Miss Popsy's Diary.*

*Grandmother's Valentine
- 1800 -*

*Sissy's Valentine
- 1845!*

*"On St. Valentine's Morn
The first swain we see
In spite of fortune shall our true
Love be!"*

Valentine's Shrine

*The
Young
Lad*

Harrow, and at Christ Church, Oxford, where he took his degrees of B.A. and M.A. in 1862 and 1865, and became a Fellow of All Souls' in the former year; was called to the Bar at the Inner Temple in 1865, and went the Home Circuit. In 1867 he was chosen one of the Assistant Commissioners appointed to inquire into the Employment of Women and Children in Agriculture. At the general election last year he was returned unopposed for Mid-Lincolnshire, and gained the seat for the Conservatives, which had been previously held by Colonel Amcotts, a Liberal, who did not seek re-election. In the course of last Session Mr. Stanhope spoke once or twice with great fluency, point, and knowledge of his subject; and no doubt his selection to move the Address on the present occasion was caused by the ability which he then displayed. The choice was justified by the manner in which he comported himself, his speech being far out of the region of commonplace, which is generally the characteristic of those of young members who perform the duty now intrusted to him.

MR. WHITELAW.

It has been for many years usual to intrust the seconding of the Address in the Commons to a member who may be taken to represent the commercial, trading, or manufacturing interests; and in this respect Mr. Alexander Whitelaw fulfilled the necessary requirements, as he is an ironmaster of experience and position. He had a right to some sort of recognition from the present Government, for he won one of the three seats for Glasgow for the Conservative party at the last election, defeating, although third on the poll, one Conservative and three Liberal candidates. Mr. Whitelaw, who was born in 1823, is a son of Mr. Alexander Whitelaw, of Drumpark, Lanarkshire, by his marriage with Miss Janet Baird, daughter of Robert Lockhart, Esq., of Castlehill, in the county of Lanark. He was educated at Grange School, Sunderland; is chairman of the School Board of Glasgow; is author of pamphlets on "National Education," "Church Endowment," "Church Work;" and is an advocate of religious teaching in elementary schools. His speech on the opening night of the Session was full, practical, and suggestive, and was delivered with plainness and without any pretentious effort.

The portrait of Lord Donoughmore is from a photograph by Messrs. Bourne and Shepherd, of Calcutta; that of Mr. E. Stanhope, from one by Messrs. Lock and Whitfield, of Brighton; and that of Mr. Whitelaw, by Mr. John Watkins, of Parliament-street, Westminster.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

FRANCE.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Thursday, Feb. 11.

Although the traditional procession of the Bœuf Gras is to-day a thing of the past, having, like many other institutions that flourished under the Second Empire, been swept away by the disasters of 1870, the Parisians still continue to celebrate the carnival, and "fat" Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday still bring round each year their customary suite of bals masqués and parés. The carnival of 1875 will have been chiefly remarkable for the grand ball given on Sunday at the new Opera House, on which occasion over 8000 people assembled within the walls of the new temple of music. The fête, so far as its object was concerned, proved most successful, for it was given for the benefit of the poor, and the proceeds from it amounted to no less than £6500; but, on the other hand, the crush was terrific, and dancing quite out of the question. A large number of political celebrities were present, and several grave academicians were observed amid the throng of *désœuvrés* who crowded every part of the house. A few well-known *dames du monde*, including the Comtesse de Paris and Princesse Troubetskoi, made their appearance in dominoes, and all the better-known Parisian theatres were represented by their leading *comédiennes*. The orchestra, conducted by Strauss, was installed upon the stage, the sides of which were hidden by magnificent hangings of purple velvet. A considerable number of additional chandeliers and candelabra had been provided, and the house, consequently, presented a far more brilliant aspect than it does on ordinary occasions. The opening quadrille was played at half-past eleven on Sunday night, and at five o'clock on Monday morning Strauss rose to conduct the final galop, the music throughout comprising selections from the comic operas of Offenbach and Lecocq.

Sunday's election in the Seine-et-Oise resulted in the complete success of M. Valentin, the Democratic candidate, who acquired considerable notoriety by the energetic manner in which he seconded General Ulrich's efforts during the siege of Strasbourg, in 1870. He polled no fewer than 56,220 votes, against 42,117 given to the Duc de Padoue, the Imperialist nominee, and 4121 secured by M. de Keratry, who came forward as a Moderate Republican candidate, but is strongly suspected of being an Orleanist in disguise. In the Côtes du Nord the poll was not a decisive one. Royalist M. de Kerjegu obtained 42,959 votes, Republican M. Foucher de Careil secured 37,520, and the Bonapartist Duc de Feltre 33,877. M. de Kerjegu not having secured a sufficient majority, the struggle will be renewed on Sunday next, when it seems likely it will result in the eventual triumph of the Legitimist representative.

There is still no precise intelligence concerning the formation of the coming Ministry. It is rumoured that the Dufaure-Audiffret Administration, concerning which we heard so much last week, will not be constituted after all; and it is certain that MM. de Broglie and de Kerdrel are striving their utmost to obtain the rejection of the constitutional project on the occasion of the third reading.

There has been nothing of note this week in the Assembly, which, after throwing out a Government measure concerning the gunpowder monopoly, and passing a bill authorising the free manufacture of dynamite, adjourned until to-day, when the senate law comes on again for discussion. Apropos of the debate on the fabrication of dynamite, that persistent practical joker, M. Clapier, produced at the tribune a small fragment of this dangerous substance, which he quietly informed his colleagues would suffice to blow them up. "A thrill of horror," says the *Figaro*, ran through the Chamber on receiving this intelligence, and nobody felt at ease until M. Clapier had taken his departure. His attempt to frighten the Assembly into adopting the principle of a monopoly was, however, unsuccessful, for the free manufacture of dynamite was eventually resolved on by 381 votes, against 225.

The much-talked-of inquiry on the Nièvre election proceeds but slowly. The members of the Parliamentary Committee meet with fresh difficulties at every step; the Minister of Justice and the magistrates connected with the affair all more or less openly espousing the Bonapartist cause. The Préfet of Police alone appears to have given the Committee some assistance in its difficult task.

ITALY.

According to a telegram to the *Standard*, the Pope went into St. Peter's on Thursday week for the first time since Sept. 20, 1870, accompanied by many cardinals, the doors

of the church having been previously shut. All the Chapter received him. Having prayed at the tombs of the Apostles and looked at the works done in the church during the last four years, the Pope returned to his apartments. His Holiness gave audience last Saturday to several foreigners, among whom were Miss Mason, with several ladies from Baltimore, besides some members of the family of General Lee, Judge Woodward of Philadelphia, and other Americans.

Garibaldi's project for the diversion of the Tiber and the improvement of the Campagna is being everywhere received with enthusiasm, and an offer has been made to undertake the whole work if a Government guarantee be granted. Garibaldi has declined, on the ground of the state of his health, an invitation to a banquet from the working men in Rome.

Signor Sonzogno, the manager of an ultra-Radical paper called *Il Capitale*, has been assassinated in Rome, having been stabbed several times with a knife. The murderer has been arrested, but the motive of his crime is not yet known.

HOLLAND.

Leyden University tercentenary was celebrated in St. Peter's Church, on Monday, in presence of the King and Queen and many deputations from learned societies throughout Europe. Professor Heynsius delivered a discourse, and his Majesty subsequently held a reception in the great hall of the University. Many degrees were conferred.

The Government has received a despatch from Acheen, dated the 3rd inst., announcing that on the 28th ult. the Dutch captured Mandarsa Polti, only sustaining slight loss. The squadron returns to the west coast.

AUSTRO-HUNGARY.

The Archduke Johann Salvator of Austria, who had been placed under arrest in his own house for publishing a pamphlet in which he stated that a war between Austria and Germany was inevitable, and that the former Power ought greatly to strengthen her artillery, has been transferred from his command in the artillery to an infantry regiment.

Announcement was made by the President of the Hungarian Ministry, at a meeting on Sunday night, that, at the close of the debates on the Estimates, the Cabinet would resign.

In Monday's sitting of the Lower House of the Hungarian Diet, M. Bitto delivered an important speech, in which he described increased taxation as the only means of bringing about an equilibrium between the revenue and expenditure, and declared that any larger saving in the "common" outlay required for the army was simply an impossibility. The speech was received with loud cheers. At Tuesday's sitting, M. Ghyezzy, Minister of Finance, delivered a speech which lasted several hours, and was received with the warmest marks of approval. He declared that the method proposed by the Government for regulating the finances of the country was the only one suitable to the situation; and he demonstrated that, if the Government's propositions were accepted, it would be possible to equalise the Budget of revenue and expenditure by 1877.

GREECE.

The Session of the Chamber was closed yesterday week by a Royal decree.

Photiades Bey, the new Envoy accredited to this Court by Turkey, has arrived at Athens.

RUSSIA.

A telegram from St. Petersburg to the *Times* says:—"The Khan of Khiva, as promised, paid, on Jan. 23, the remaining 18,000 roubles of the war indemnity. The Yomoods have dispatched a hostile expedition against the Bokharian garrison of Kabatala, on the Oxus."

Germany, Austria, Italy, and France have declared their willingness to attend the St. Petersburg conference for the final settlement of the Brussels war-code draught; while Holland, Belgium, Denmark, Switzerland, and Sweden have, like England, either declined to take part in the proposed new conference on the usages of war, or else deferred a definite reply.

AMERICA.

President Grant has sent a message to the Senate relative to the state of affairs in Arkansas, in which he recognises Mr. Brooks as the lawfully elected Governor, and requests Congress not to overlook the overthrow of the State Constitution by lawless revolutionary measures. The President has signed the Act to amend the existing customs and internal revenue laws, called the Little Tariff Act.

With a view to the settlement of the dispute in Louisiana, it has been proposed that the Democrats shall be allowed a majority of ten in the Legislature, on condition that they waive all investigation of Governor Kellogg's acts. This compromise has been accepted by the Conservatives, but Mr. McEnery rejects it, and offers to retire.

The House of Representatives yesterday week passed the Civil Rights Bill, after ten days' severe conflict. The bill goes to the Senate for action on amendments.

The Committee of Ways and Means has drafted a supplementary Tariff Bill, by which it is proposed to levy 30 million dollars of additional taxation on cotton and woollen goods, iron, steel, paper, books, leather, and sugar.

The Republicans have introduced resolutions in the North Carolina Legislature repudiating the Civil Rights Bill.

The Court on the Alabama claims has decided that foreigners entitled to the protection of the American flag shall share in the distribution of the fund, whilst British subjects sailing under the American flag are not entitled to participation.

The Khedive of Egypt has sent as a present to the bride of Lieutenant Fitch, of the United States Navy, a magnificent necklace and earrings of diamonds, valued at 150,000 dols. This lady is the daughter of General Sherman, for whom the Khedive has a high regard, and the present was sent on account of this friendship. A special Act of Congress has been passed to enable the lady to accept it.

CANADA.

The Dominion Parliament was opened on Thursday week. The Governor-General in his speech recommended the adoption of a bill for the creation of a Supreme Court, an insolvency law, the establishment of a Government in the north-west, and bills relating to insurance and copyright. He alluded to the soundness of Canadian trade, the prosperity of the country, the progress of the Pacific Railroad surveys, and the early commencement of the line. He congratulated the Parliament on the negotiation of the Indian treaties and the good effect of the mounted police in the north-west.

The estimates show a surplus of revenue over expenditure of 3,400,000 dols.

The Government has introduced a bill to regulate marine telegraphs. The bill is similar to that passed last Session affecting the monopoly of the existing American cable companies, and which the Earl of Carnarvon declined to recommend for her Majesty's assent.

Mr. McKenzie has given notice in the House of Commons of a resolution for presenting an address to the Governor-General in favour of a complete amnesty of the persons concerned in the north-west disturbance in 1869, excepting Riel, Lepine, and O'Donchue.

INDIA.

The Maharajah of Travancore had an interview with Lord Northbrook on Thursday week, at which the Viceroy expressed surprise at the report which had appeared in the press to the effect that serious complaints had been made to the Government of India respecting the administration of Travancore. The Viceroy assured the Maharajah that this report was entirely unfounded, and that everything he had heard of the administration of Travancore was most satisfactory.

According to a Calcutta telegram to the *Times*, it is finally settled that the Baroda Commission shall consist of Chief Justice Couch, Scindiah, the Maharajah of Jeypore, Mr. Nevill, and Sir Dinkur Rao.

Herat, it is reported, was occupied by the troops of the Ameer Shere Ali on the 19th of last month.

CHINA.

Tsaeteen, a son of Prince Chun, has been proclaimed Emperor. Li-Hungtwang is appointed his first Minister. Prince Kung's name is omitted from the list of the members of the Privy Council.

AUSTRALIA.

Another Ministry has been formed in New South Wales, with Mr. Robertson as Premier. The other members of the Cabinet are—Mr. Forster, Treasurer; Mr. Dalley, Attorney-General; Mr. Burns, Postmaster-General; Mr. Garratt, Minister of Lands; Mr. Lackey, Public Works; Mr. Doekar, Justice; and Mr. Lucas, Mines.

Telegraphic communication with the Channel Islands has been restored.

Mr. Richard Garth, Q.C., has accepted the Chief Justiceship of Bengal, vacant by the retirement of Sir R. Crouch.

The Sultan has promised to grant to the Christians in Turkey that protection which the Evangelical Alliance desired.

In the Jersey States a bill for compulsory vaccination was thrown out, but an amendment, recommending the practice on voluntary principles, was carried by a majority of seven.

The Fiji Islands have been erected into the "Colony of Fiji," under her Majesty's letters patent; and the appointment of Sir A. H. Gordon as Governor and Commander-in-Chief has been officially announced.

Bishop Gobat consecrated lately the new Arabic Protestant church at Jerusalem. This is the third Protestant church there. The other two are Christ Church, on Zion, and the German chapel on the Place of the Knights of St. John.

Lieutenant Cameron's map and journal, which were unaccountably delayed at Aden, have now arrived in this country. According to the *Academy*, the map of Tanganyika, in five sheets, supplies an accurate delineation of that important lake.

At the request of the Royal Society, the observers who will proceed to Siam, at the invitation of the King, to witness the total eclipse of the sun, will be given a passage to that place from Singapore in one of her Majesty's ships.

A despatch has reached Cairo from the Governor-General of the Sudan announcing the submission of the whole family of the ex-Sultan of Darfour. The annexation of the territory to Egypt is now complete, and it has been divided into four provinces, the principal seat of government being at Facher.

Some ancient Flemish tapestry advertised for sale at Antwerp was purchased by the Belgian Government at the price of 35,000fl., and will be deposited for public exhibition at the Porte de Hal, Brussels, and added to the present valuable and interesting collection of antiquities, ancient armour, and rare old china now on view there.

Advices from Buenos Ayres to the 9th ult. confirm previous reports of the entire pacification of Uruguay. The country had settled down to peace, labour was resumed, all traces of the recent conflict had disappeared, and emigrants continued to pour into the country. At Monte Video, however, the Government was still embarrassed by financial difficulties.

Langalibalele, according to advices from Capetown to the 15th ult., is to be released; but he is not to return to Natal, and is to reside in the colony, under strict surveillance. It is also stated that Sir Benjamin Pine has been recalled from the Governorship of Natal, and that Sir E. Butler has been appointed in his place.

Persons intending to emigrate to Brazil are reminded, in a document published by her Majesty's Government, of "the unhappy results that have attended previous schemes of emigration to that country," and are warned of the obstacles and disadvantages they will have to encounter if they should be induced to settle there.

To avoid the uncertainty which, owing to frequent changes in the colonial mail service between New York and Nassau, has for some time past existed as to the proper dates for dispatching mails to the Bahamas, arrangements have been made for dispatching a weekly mail for that colony. This mail will be made up in London every Saturday evening, and at Dublin on Sunday morning, for conveyance as far as New York, there to await the sailing of any steamer which may be proceeding to Nassau. This arrangement is intended to supersede the former plan of sending mails on varying dates.

The text of Governor Strahan's proclamation with regard to the abolition of slavery on the Gold Coast has been published. The proclamation declares that henceforth it is unlawful to sell, or purchase, or transfer, or take any person as a slave; and that, moreover, it is unlawful to bring any person, whether a slave or free, into the protected territories from Ashantee or elsewhere in order that such person should be sold or dealt with as a slave or pawn. Whoever offends against these laws will be punished with imprisonment, and may also be fined. All children born in the Protectorate after Nov. 5, 1874, have been declared free. It is at the same time announced that these laws are not intended as inducements to any person to leave any master in whose service he may be desirous of remaining. Family and tribal relations are to continue as before.—The native kings and chiefs have addressed a memorial to the Governor, and also to the Queen, praying that the proclamation may be annulled and cancelled. They maintain that its provisions are not in accordance with the terms conceded to them in November last.

A widow, named Mary Shearer, or Paterson, who is said to have attained the age of 105 years, died on Monday at Hamilton. Her descendants consist of ten children, over one hundred grandchildren, sixty great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren.

It has been decided to convert the ruins of Nottingham Castle into a fine-arts museum, the Government and town council promising substantial support if private subscriptions were liberal. The sum already sent amounts to nearly £5000, of which sum Mr. Morley, M.P., has given £1000.

LOVE'S MORNING.

I saw the other day two children playing in front of a house which looked on to the Thames. It was a beautiful morning, the sky clear and cloudless, the river rolling peacefully along, with trees on the other side, and red-roofed houses further down: but the little men bent steadily over their tops, grave and happy, wasting no time on the thoughts of the scenery around them or the sky above. All the world was at its work, near them and for them—fighting over religion, politics, commerce: loving, praying, marching stoutly onwards—but they did not heed the troubles of mankind in general, nor the private sorrows of their particular fathers and mothers, but worked at their play with a business-like and engrossing enjoyment very odd to watch.

Why should these children have seemed a more interesting and touching sight than the bright morning sky, than the workmen passing along the road, than the roofs of London stretching far away on both sides of the river, and covering so many noble workers? Where is the beauty in the sight of two little people, not particularly pretty nor picturesque, entirely absorbed in selfish pleasures, entirely forgetful of any joys or sorrows brothers or sisters, father or mother, may have that day endured? Why should we love these epitomes of what is less noble and manly in us; what gives them an influence over us, almost entirely for good, greater than that of most of our peers in age, in intellect, and the higher virtues—self-denial, self-respect, justice?

Is it not partly the quaintness of the parody of "grown-up," workaday life, that gives children their beauty in our eyes? All things that remind us picturesquely of our own ways and thoughts have a curious charm for us: it is the human nature of cats and dogs, monkeys and birds, that makes them so interesting. The other day, in a very high cold wind, a little kitten had ensconced itself in a grating let into the base of a portico, and was peeping out with comical happiness as the dry leaves swept past its little nook, and people hurried by with pinched cheeks and blue noses; and no one could help noticing the charming little picture. It was so prettily human—its innocent selfishness touched one with sympathy; one felt that being a cat was not so very different from being a man or woman after all. Then, its very enjoyment had a beauty, its ignorant simplicity a charm: as there is always a beauty in pure enjoyment—whether of kittens, children, or other people—and a something pitiable about helpless ignorance.

It is some feeling like this that gives first love its charm to people long past the age of any love at all, in the romantic sense of the word. Men of business, old and tough, will watch with pleasure the brightening of a young girl's face when the lad she loves (and will, one may be sure, never marry) enters the room that was so dark and dull without him; and women of any age over thirty take the deepest interest in the delicious woes of an eager boy who has just met the "dearest girl in the world"—number one. Yet, looked at from an unsympathetic point of view, lovers are every bit as bad as children. Ought one to be anything but impatient with a pair of young people who, if in the habit of giving way to each other to an absurd extent in some things, are generally entirely without consideration for the feelings or convenience of anyone else.

But how every poet has sung of "love's young dream"—how painter after painter has realised for us Shakespeare's Juliet, Goethe's Gretchen, Tennyson's Elaine! How many thousand stories have had this only for their theme—how few songs are not simply hymns of love, and of this special form of love? It is the unconscious beauty of the picture made by pair after pair of boy-and-girl sweethearts that fascinates irresistibly every generation of singers, artists, writers. In the dawn of life, when "golden lads and lasses" stretch forth eager hands towards the first radiance of love, there is an untaught grace, a swift impulsiveness, that never comes again.

Watch the walk of a girl of eighteen; notice the Oxford and Cambridge elevens at Lord's; you will see a lightness, an enjoyment, in the easy movements, more beautiful than the firm tread of a man of thirty-five; and the spirit which animates these slight and supple forms is like them—young love is to it simply a song of overflowing life; a wine to be quaffed at once, without thought, without stint; a sport, a dream, a heavenly gift that shall endure in its radiance, glamour, enchantment, to the end, in no way alloyed with earthly cares.

Love has its pretty customs, its superstitions and old usages, that endure long after other old rites and ceremonies have disappeared. Cupid is the only true immortal of the old Pantheon. Jove is now only sworn by; Venus seldom mentioned but in comic songs; Apollo and the Nine absolutely forgotten and done away with—packed off, with Helicon and Parnassus, to the limbo where Blackmore and Cibber, Sprat and Dyer, sleep in merited oblivion; but still the "naughty naked little boy" receives his charming, useless offerings, his poor little copies of verses, odd gloves, faded flowers, bits of laced paper stuck over with gilt and tinsel. The poet of to-day exclaims, appealing to the god of Anacreon and Pindar—

O Love, kind Love, that all have sung,
Since first beneath the clear Greek sky
For thee the sacred lyre was strung—
Thou ever gracious, ever young,
O hear thy latest votary's cry;
Come, sweet Love, come, I sigh!

The feast of St. Valentine, Hallowmas E'en, and other high-days in the true lover's calendar, are still kept as religiously as when the venerable Bishop Valentine, utterly regardless of the toil he was imposing on the postmen of posterity, gave on his birthday a chance for the most bashful swain, the coyest damsel, to make the sweet confession unproved.

There is about the old custom of valentines—or was, at all events, before they were degraded into a branch of trade—that fresh and bright spring feeling that hangs about the poetry of olden days: that is at once called up by the names of Kit Marlowe, Nash, Browne, and Chaucer. Around the picture of the country lad rising with the sun and putting on his holiday array to come beneath his sweetheart's window and greet her with "Good-morrow" as his valentine, there is a breezy odour of old-world simplicity of the sort that Lamb so dearly loved.

What were they like, those old times and their young lovers? Very much like our own, except outwardly; or more unlike in every way than we imagine? In the matters of first love, valentines, and the constancy of men and women, boys and girls, the times are probably very little changed. We are accustomed to look back on the days of chivalry (whenever they were) as a period when every knight was unchangeably faithful to his lady-love, when squires fell in love with maidens of honour and for years lived on an occasional haughty smile, or a nod intended for somebody else, and at last, when they had become belted knights themselves, won and wedded their first and only mistresses; yet long before knights and squires had begun to exist Jove laughed at lovers' perjuries, and, if all tales be true, set the perjurers a somewhat conspicuous example himself. Look back as far as we can, we see a beauty, ethereal indeed, but as changeable and evanescent as the rosy flush of earthly dawns, in the glow of blushes, the sparkling dew of tears, the sweet but fleeting smiles that herald Love's Morning.

THE MAGAZINES.

In this month's *Cornhill* Miss Thackeray brings her charming heroine, Angelica Kauffmann, over to England, and appears disposed to follow the precedent set by her father in filling her story with historical dramatic personæ, especially those belonging to the literary and artistic worlds. Sir Joshua Reynolds, Garrick, Johnson, and Boswell are among the personages introduced, none very powerfully painted, but all, especially Reynolds, with delicate and appreciative sympathy. "Three Feathers" has reached the crisis so long foreseen, and our engaging little heroine, Wenna, is as miserable as we trust she is destined to be happy. "Have we two brains?" is a question which most people would unhesitatingly answer in the negative. Much curious physiological evidence, however, is adduced to prove the independence of the two cerebral hemispheres, and it is even suggested that if we could learn to make use of both at once we might double our intellectual powers. A paper on "Shelley's Earlier Years" is excellent in point of feeling, and evinces acquaintance on the essayist's part with some circumstances not hitherto made known. He distinctly asserts, for example, that Shelley's coadjutor in his first volume of verse was not, as hitherto supposed, his betrothed, Harriet Grove, but his sister Elizabeth. "Thoughts about Thinking" is a good paper of a frequent *Cornhill* type; and Mrs. Webster's lines, entitled "Siste Viator," are melodious and impressive.

"Baker on Livingstone" is sure to attract readers to the current number of *Macmillan*; Sir Samuel, however, finds little to say that has not been said already. The article is written in a spirit of generous appreciation, and the relation of other African explorers to the departed is rather oddly compared to that of sheep to their shepherd. If so they must now be as sheep having no shepherd, and consequently all astray. Sheep they may be, but judging from the liveliness of their geographical controversies, they assuredly are not lambs. Sir Arthur Helps's necrology of Charles Kingsley is short but to the point. Mr. Scoones, whose experience in preparing candidates for the Civil Service renders him a fair representative of its wishes, contributes a highly important paper on its reorganisation. The chief point on which he insists is the necessity for remunerating work according to value, and not allowing an officer called upon to perform important duties to continue on a low standard of pay. He also recommends more uniformity in the examinations. "Natural Religion" is also an important essay, the gist of which is that the postulates of religion and science are in many respects very similar. Mr. Freeman, strong as ever in architecture and public law, contributes a very interesting paper on the old Roman city of Orange, which almost everybody supposes to be in the Netherlands, but which is in fact in the south of France. Mr. T. G. Bowles, writing on the case of the Kaffir chief Langalibalele, states the principle involved to have been whether the aborigines are or are not entitled to the protection of British law. Lord Carnarvon would seem to have taken the same view. Mr. Munro is more successful in fixing the charge of inanity on his critic Mr. Keibel's Latin verses, than in defending his own against that of harshness.

"Early Kings of Norway" are continued in *Fraser*. The style presents something of Mr. Carlyle's quaintness and humour, not much of his fire and picturesqueness. Professor Newman will hardly succeed in excluding the roast beef of old England from our tables; but, apart from this somewhat questionable purpose, his essay on vegetarianism contains many useful receipts and sound hints for economy in food. The homeliness of German housekeeping is the subject of sarcastic disparagement in a very entertaining paper. Mr. Julius Vogel, the Premier of New Zealand, defends the financial system of the colony against the recent strictures of Mr. Fellows. Mr. Blind's reminiscences of Ledru-Rollin principally relate to the year 1849. There is a feeble paper by Mr. Forsyth on "The Limits of Science," and a more interesting one on the signification attached by Jews to the term "Messiah."

The *Fortnightly Review* commences and concludes with essays from its editor's brilliant pen—an addition to his studies on the apostles of philosophy in France in the last century, of which Diderot is this time the subject; and a postscript on the question of the Liberal leadership. The tone adopted by the extreme Liberals on this subject would be impressive if, as they tacitly assume, the country were with them; but it appears almost ludicrous when one considers that, under present circumstances, they have no option but to follow the lead of the more moderate section or to become a clique of little more account than the Home Rulers. In a paper on Church and State in Germany Mr. Paton maintains that the new legislation is not only just, but mild. He certainly makes two good points, in showing that it is in great measure directed to the vindication of the Church's own canon law, systematically evaded of late years by the higher ecclesiastics, and by proving that the prohibition of spiritual intimidation in political affairs proceeds on precisely the same principles as the recent English decisions in the Galway election cases. Professor Cairnes deduces many portentous corollaries from Mr. Spencer's social philosophy, which Mr. Spencer, in a note, steadily declines to see. Some very uncomfortable social facts of another order are disclosed in Mr. G. Smith's paper on "Our Canal Population." The "unknown poet" who forms the subject of Mr. Swinburne's essay is Mr. Wells, whose "Joseph and his Brethren: a Scriptural Drama," was published some fifty years since, and, although frequently attracting notice from a select circle, has remained utterly unknown to the general public. It is undoubtedly a very fine poem, offering a strong affinity to the Elizabethan drama, and one of the richest fruits of the contemporary reaction towards that class of composition. Any apparent extravagance of admiration on Mr. Swinburne's part may be ascribed to his sympathy with a situation which he has powerfully treated himself. Mr. George Meredith's "Beauchamp's Career" continues to be brilliant; its chief fault is the frequent affectation of the style.

In the *Contemporary Review* Professor Lightfoot discusses the authenticity of the Ignatian epistles, and seems in danger of acquitting the writer of forgery only to convict him of Gnosticism. Principal Tulloch writes genially and sympathetically of a most genial and sympathetic man, the late William Smith, author of "Thorndale." Father Bridgett, jealous for the honour of holy men of old, labours to prove that cleanliness was not accounted a sin in the Middle Ages. Professor Clifford explains how it has come to pass that the elements of Euclid have been refuted by Professor Lobatschewsky—an important fact, if only it is as true as it is new. Mr. W. R. Greg puts the important query "Can truths be apprehended which could not have been discovered?" and proposes some sound arguments in the negative. Mr. Fitz-James Stephen shows that the law of England is not so free from all countenance of religious persecution as usually supposed; and suggests the propriety of a simple Act, which would effectually prevent the revival of obsolete legislation for party purposes. The Dean of Westminster's paper on ecclesiastical

vestments is distinguished by his usual liberality and comprehensiveness.

"Alice Lorraine" maintains its place as the leading attraction of *Blackwood*, which loses "The Story of Valentine" and also "Gianetto." The conclusion of the latter story is far from justifying the expectations raised by the commencement, being at once exaggerated and commonplace. The most interesting of the miscellaneous papers is one on the payment of the French war indemnity, which is defined as "an enormous piece of admirably well-arranged international banking."

Besides the continuations of Mr. McCarthy's and Mr. Percival's novels, the *Gentleman's Magazine* invites attention with an amusing budget of old Dublin recollections, an interesting sketch of the great actress Desclée, and a curious invective against "the trammels of poetic expression" by a writer who has probably never succeeded in putting them on. He need not look far beyond his own essay to find an instance of the effectiveness of poetic form in Mr. Buchanan's spirited ballad of "Hans Vogel," which would have fallen quite flat in plain prose.

The most important among the varied contents of the *Transatlantic* are Mr. R. E. Thompson's comments on Professor Tyndall's recent address, and Senator Carl Schurz's speech on the Louisiana question, in which the conduct of the United States Government is vehemently condemned. Mr. Martineau's remarkable essays on "The Protestant Theory of Authority" are continued in *Old and New*.

Mrs. Linton's powerful story of "Patricia Kemball" is concluded in *Temple Bar*, which has also very readable papers on Mirabeau's charming and faithful friend, Madame de Nehra, and on "The universality of superstitions connected with sneezing."

The *Month*, as was to be expected, is principally occupied with Mr. Gladstone and Lord Acton. The account of the Riddell conspiracy against Queen Elizabeth is full of interest. The question whether Pope Pius V. was or was not acquainted with the project for her assassination is one which does not admit of being absolutely determined. A Jesuit Father, writing on one of the founders of Port Royal, lays the entire blame of the French Revolution upon the Jansenists.

Half *Tinsley's* space is accorded to novels of various, but in all cases considerable, merit. A new feature, however, appears in the commencement of a series of papers of social gossip from the pen of Dr. C. M. Davies. Dr. Davies writes with abundant spirit, although somewhat more condensation might be desirable.

Belgravia has a variety of entertaining papers, one of which, by Mr. Sala, is partly devoted to the analysis of a real curiosity—a comedy by William Cobbett. The piece was entitled "Surplus Population," and presents all the characteristics of Cobbett's political writings. It is needless to say that it was never performed on any stage. "A Model Epic" is a well-merited panegyric of Mr. Edwin Arnold's version of the "Hero and Leander" of Musæus. It is remarkable that the writer should appear wholly unacquainted with the ancient translation by Marlowe and Chapman. The *Argosy's* strength, as usual, is in its short stories; but it also contains a very pleasant topographical paper, "Round About Barmouth." Mrs. Browning's correspondence with Mr. R. H. Horne has migrated from the *Contemporary* to the *St. James's Magazine*.

Among the more noticeable contents of *Good Words* are the continuation of Miss Ingelow's story, "Fated to be Free," the last sermon of the lamented Canon Kingsley, and a beautiful sonnet by C. Brooke.

We have also to acknowledge *Good Things*, *London Society*, *Golden Hours*, the *Victoria Magazine*, the *New Monthly Magazine*, *Cassell's Magazine*, the *Sunday Magazine*, *Once a Week*, *All the Year Round*, the *Practical Magazine*, and *Chambers's Journal*.

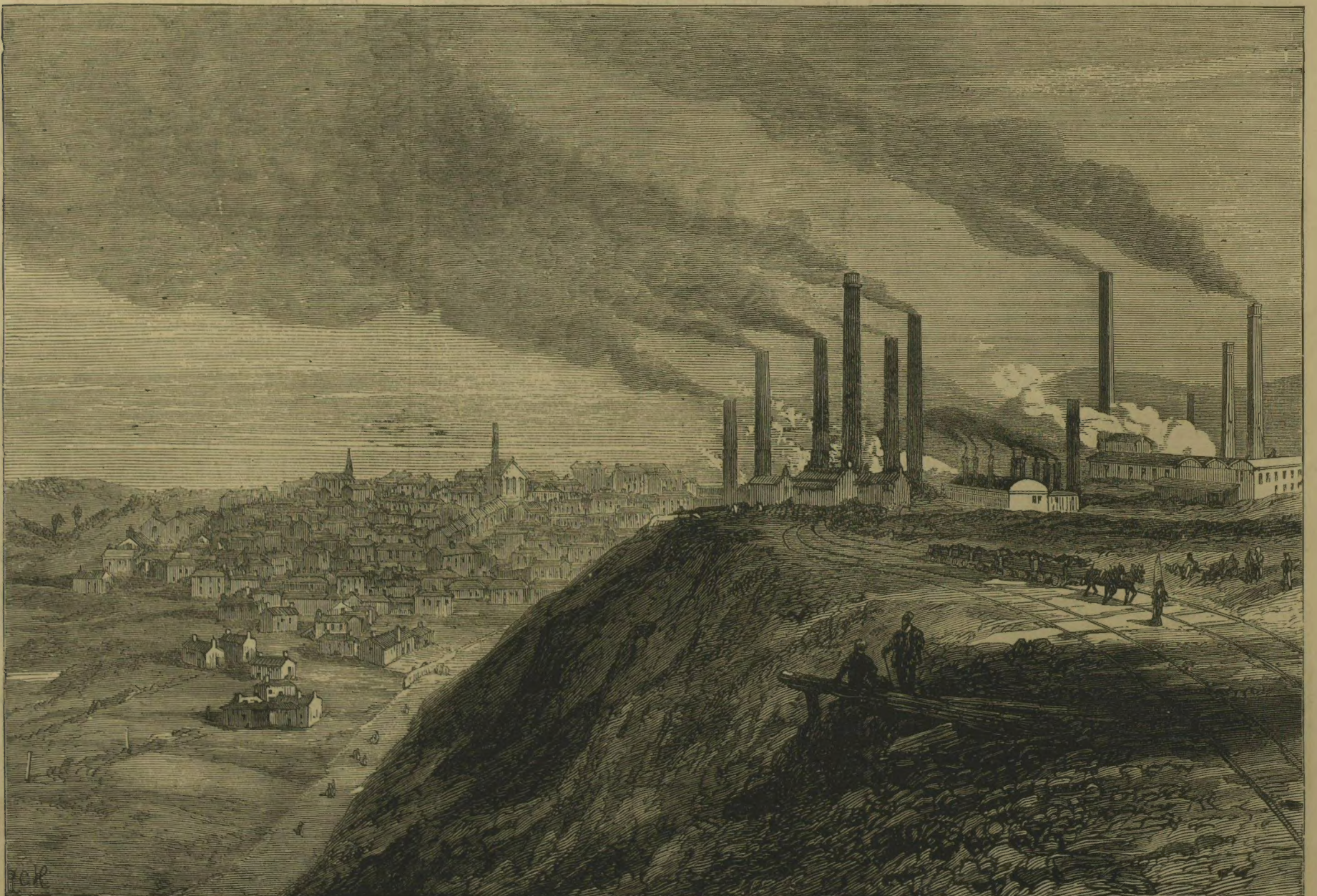
THE LOCK-OUT IN SOUTH WALES.

The stoppage of labour, since the end of last month, in the mining districts of South Wales, on account of the dispute between employers and employed, is a calamity of great extent. With the exception of purely agricultural districts, almost the entire population of the two counties of Glamorgan and Monmouth are reduced to idleness, for the suspension of the staple industries of coal and iron involves the great copper and tinplate works, patent fuel manufactories, and hundreds of smaller concerns dependent upon the coal supply, which this lock-out cuts off from them. They are all threatened with the same interruption, and it will be a marvel if many of them are enabled to maintain operations for any space of time. The colliers and pit labourers alone number about 70,000, the ironworkers 40,000, and the men whose employment is contingent upon these are certainly 10,000, so that a host of 120,000 workmen is placed in enforced idleness, upon whose labour a population of three times as many more depend for their means of subsistence. Reckoning the money lost by this suspension, the sacrifice is alarming. At the current rate, not less than £150,000 is lost in wages alone every week while the struggle lasts, and the value of the commerce which would be ordinarily transacted during the same period amounts to at least half a million sterling. Anything more ruinous it is impossible to conceive. The Taff Vale Company has more than half its engines and rolling stock idle, and the Great Western nearly a hundred locomotives laid up in the sheds at Pontypool-road and other places, while the sidings along the line are crowded with miles of empty waggons. The Dowlais Company have closed the market-place at Dowlais and converted it into a vast stable for the reception of their horses, of which they had nearly a thousand. The produce of the pits has been stocked at the works, and the blast furnaces, of which the company has nine now in operation, have been put on half blast. The company hope to be able to keep going for a month with present stocks and execute a few small orders as well; but in other places they are not so well off, and the two blast furnaces which were kept going at Plymouth are now blown out. At Blaenavon coal and coke would last a few days longer, and then the three furnaces saved there also must be blown out. Should the unhappy dispute remain unsettled at the end of another month, it is probable that no blast furnace will then be in operation throughout South Wales, except at the non-association works at Blaenau, Pentregh, and Llynvi. The colliers withdrawn were in the employ of the following firms:—The Dowlais Iron Company, the Plymouth Iron Company, and Mr. R. Crawshaw's, at Merthyr; the Rhymney Iron Company, Rhymney; the Tredegar Iron Company, at Tredegar; the Ebbw Vale Company, at Ebbw Vale; Sir Howy and Victoria Powell's Llantwit Colliery Company, Llantwit; the Governor and Company of Copper Miners, Carnarvon; and Messrs. Vivian, Pentrefelin, in the Swansea district, in all about 15,000 men. As the men left their work they were given to understand that there would be no further employment until a general settlement was effected. The colliers employed in the Dowlais, Cyfarthfa, and Plymouth collieries are not responsible for the stoppage. In the Aberdare, Rhondda, and Monmouthshire districts the lock-out has produced no stir, and will come into force without affecting the aspect of these localities, the men having awaited it with an unconcern which is almost incomprehensible.

THE LOCK-OUT IN SOUTH WALES.



DOWLAIS MARKET-PLACE, CONVERTED TO THE RECEPTION OF PIT HORSES.



DOWLAIS, FROM THE CINDER-HEAPS.



"Some simple pleasure that in memory lives
To age and childhood equal pleasure gives."

BY A. E. IMSLIE.—IN THE EXHIBITION AT THE DEYLU' ALLERY.

The Extra Supplement.

"THE EXECUTION OF SIR THOMAS MORE."

In the picture by Mr. Yeames, of which an Engraving is presented for our Extra Supplement, we see the martyrdom of that upright judge and statesman, that patriotic Englishman and enlightened Christian, who died by the axe on Tower-hill nearly 340 years ago. Whatever sophistical apologies it may suit Mr. Froude to make for the inhuman tyrant who sent Bishop Fisher and Sir Thomas More to the block, this is one of the worst actions recorded of any ruler in our national history. Catholics and Protestants may heartily agree in their detestation of proceedings which not only violated every principle of law and justice, but which involved the foulest personal ingratitude and the direst outrage upon social and domestic affection. Fisher and More, two of the King's most loyal subjects and most virtuous men of their time, had been, from Henry's youth upward, his intimate friends and ever faithful servants. Their sole alleged offence was that of refusing to join in a new declaration of the King's authority to rule the Church—the very same King who had, a few years before, upheld the authority of the Pope. It was for this conscientious adherence to the opinion in which every man of their age had been educated, that the venerable prelate and the learned Chancellor were basely butchered, like more than one of their master's unhappy wives, to the enduring shame of English Royalty. For the same crime, a little while before, seven priests and monks, including the Prior of the old Charterhouse, were hanged at Tyburn, but were cut down alive from the gallows to have their bowels torn out, and to be finally beheaded and dismembered. In those very days, lest it be thought that any zeal for the pure doctrine of the Reformation was concerned in such atrocities, fourteen men and women, for denying the transubstantiation of sacramental bread and wine, were burnt at the stake to show that King Henry was an orthodox believer.

Fisher and More were together imprisoned in the Tower, which is sacred to their noble memory while England has faith in any truth or right whatever. The account of More's repeated examinations, and of his public trial in Westminster Hall, proves the innocence and integrity of this great man, and his fidelity to every political and private duty. On his return to the Tower, landing at the wharf with the axe turned towards him, the doomed martyr was met by Mrs. Margaret Roper, his affectionate daughter, who forced her way through the halberdiers around him, and fell weeping on his neck. As the kindest of fathers, he wept for a moment with her; but on mounting the scaffold he gently smiled and jested. "Mr. Lieutenant," he said to his gaoler, "see me safely up, and, for my coming down, let me shift for myself." The executioner, as usual, asked his forgiveness. "Friend," said More, "thou wilt do me the greatest service that man can do me. But my neck is very short; take heed, for the credit of thy profession, to strike not awry." Feeling the axe's edge, he called it "a sharp but sure remedy for all diseases." Having prayed in the name of Christ, he laid his head on the block. Yet, before the stroke was given, he bade the headsman wait an instant. It was to gather up his flowing beard from the throat about to be severed. "My beard should not be cut," he sportively remarked; "I think that has never committed any treason." In this pleasant temper, with a heart full of charity and piety, at peace with God and man, died the great and good Sir Thomas More. It was July 6, 1535, that witnessed the affecting tragedy. All Europe had long been acquainted with the fame of this accomplished scholar, lawyer, and statesman, whose admirable wit had delighted the best society of his age. Many voices soon loudly expressed the general indignation at his death. In this country, at any rate, Sir Thomas More should never be forgotten. Though a Catholic, and an opponent of the Royal supremacy in matters of religion, he was a martyr, if any man was, to the true principle of the Protestant Reformation—we mean, to freedom of conscience.

"A NIGGER MELODY."

We have taken the liberty to christen as above the amusing little drawing by Mr. Alfred E. Emslie, which we have engraved from the Water-Colour Exhibition at the Dudley Gallery. It is surely a "nigger melody" of the liveliest sort which this cheerful dark old gentleman is playing with so much gusto to his select and appreciative audience. The incident is as original as it is droll; yet it is one which strikes the observer at once as characteristic of the affectionate and genial negro nature. The old man is probably an emancipated slave. The pergola-like shelter overhead suggests that he is sitting under his own vine and—metaphorically, if not literally—his own fig-tree. He has more leisure now to indulge his insatiable love of music; but, like all his race, he cannot take his pleasure alone; so he fastens up his picaresque grandchild in his baby-chair, and then dashes away at railroad speed on his violin, to the infinite delight of both. And what a true sample is the old man of the "darkie" carelessness as to shape or condition of the garments he wears, provided they have some pretensions to finery!—See the scarlet lining to the enormous tattered greatcoat and the parti-coloured patches on the seedy pantaloons. We must not forget the little dog lying at full length in perfect content—not the least happy, perhaps, of the trio.

The first turf of the Banbury and Cheltenham Railway was turned on Wednesday.

At a meeting held at Darlington, on Monday, it was resolved to organise a new railway company, whose line is to embrace the iron district of Middlesbrough, the iron-fields of Cleveland, and the coal-fields of Northumberland and Durham.

The Wrexham Eisteddod of 1876 promises to be the grandest ever held. From £800 to £900 is offered in prizes for competition in poetry, prose, music, and arts. The inhabitants have encouraged the project by raising a guarantee fund of £2000, and no Eisteddod has ever been known to have enlisted so much the co-operation of the nobility and gentry. An exhibition of works of art is to be held in connection with the Eisteddod. The proceeds are to be devoted to found a scholarship in the Welsh University.

A meeting of the Wolverhampton and Walsall Railway Company was held, on Monday, in Wolverhampton, to consider an offer by the London and North-Western Company to buy the line, and thereby end a Chancery suit which has been begun against them for a breach of the terms of the agreement upon which they work the line. The offer was equal to 10s. in the pound. It was strongly disapproved by the Earl of Lichfield, chairman of the directors; but his Lordship was supported by only one other director, and by Mr. Baxter, solicitor, of London. After a stormy meeting the sale was sanctioned by a great majority, as well in money as votes.

SKETCHES IN PARLIAMENT.

In the memory of the most experienced Parliamentarian there is but one precedent for the meeting of the Legislature on a Friday, and that was in 1829. Why that day—which the old superstition declares to be full of ill-omen—was chosen nobody knows, and it can only be conjectured that the present Prime Minister, confident in his fortunes, meant to signify that he defies augury.

Description of the opening of Parliament by Commission is entirely played out, and it may be left to the exercise of a very small modicum of imagination by the public to conceive the semi-grotesque scene. When the House of Lords "resumed," in its business phase, without any mediæval mingling, there were, as usual, a couple of youthful Peers delivering the rhetorical lessons they had learned for the moving and seconding of the Address; and it may fairly be said that the Earl of Donoughmore and Lord Rayleigh were each equal to the occasion, which is not saying too much. So far as could be made out by Lord Granville's speech, it would seem that he proposes to be a watchful but not unpleasant critic of the Government; while the Duke of Richmond appeared to intimate that if there were to be any combats of parties in that serene assembly they would be carried on with headless lances. The talky-talky was over so soon as to permit of their Lordships being in time for dinner at the ordinary hour.

In the Commons, some old and some new, mostly old, members came in with the opening of the doors; but they were not in great numbers, and somehow an idea was suggested by the demeanour of the House as it became constituted that no one was in a hurry. Even the Speaker seemed influenced by some such feeling, for whereas the chair on this day is generally taken at half-past one, he did not make his entry until a quarter of an hour later. In the afternoon all the benches were full, but not overflowing; and it might have been observed that the Ministry were in full force in their chartered places, some looking beaming; and there might have been noted—strange as it may appear—even the phantom of a smile on the countenance of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. It was with a springy step and an air of alertness that Mr. Disraeli walked up the floor to his place; and any comical person who was looking on might have murmured something about the gait of "a silvery-footed antelope." It may have been fancy, but the occupants of the front Opposition appeared to be gloomy; and Mr. Forster, Sir W. Harcourt, and Mr. Lowe seemed as if they kept their eyes carefully averted from a vacant seat that was preserved in the centre of the bench. Towards that anon the Marquis of Hartington bent his way; and while he strode on, and when he "assumed his state," the Opposition cheered with general consent. Without asserting it as a fact, there was just a suspicion that his immediate colleagues around him did not exactly join in the welcome.

Presently, in the midst of the sombre ranks of the Ministerialists, there was to be observed a bright and even glittering spot, which consisted of Mr. Edward Stanhope and Mr. Whitelaw, endowed in those particular radiant costumes without the wearing of which the moving and seconding of the Address would be unconstitutional and void, with consequences which as yet the Parliamentary mind has not conceived. Though he looks very young, Mr. Stanhope is by no means a lad; he has had some experience of public life, and last Session he gave out proofs of being a fluent, almost an eloquent, a full-of-matter, and certainly a confident speaker. No doubt, on this occasion, he did manage to bring his speech out of the grooves of that common-place, which usually characterises the deliverances of movers of the Address; but he hardly had the art to conceal his art, and though he was still fluent and assured, and even suggestive, he was not exactly easy. But that defect is inevitable to the situation. As to Mr. Whitelaw, who is that *rara avis* a Conservative Scotch borough member, it was his business to be practical, and if he was rather dry-as-dustical, why, it was to be expected.

Following the order of things which has been established of late years, the leader of the Opposition succeeded. Of Lord Hartington's speech it may be said that it was sufficiently adapted to the occasion, and had a great deal more in it than might have been supposed by those who heard him, owing to a slight indistinctness of delivery. What is certain is that he reserved for his peroration a touch of sarcasm upon the Conservative party, which was effective in itself, and, besides, provocative of a witty rejoinder on the part of Mr. Disraeli. As to that right hon. gentleman, when he began his voice was a little tremulous, and its tones slightly servile. But in a short time it mellowed, and, answering to the tricky, pranksome spirit with which he was evidently imbued, it served well while he revelled in continuous banter, at once keen and good-humoured. It may be said at once, that in speeches subsequently delivered he preserved the same airy style and the same buoyancy. The best tribute to his speech was the fact that the whole House showed that it would hear no other, by rising as one man and trooping out into the lobby.

After a recess from Friday to Monday, the Commons set about to evince that, on the face of it, this is not to be a do-nothing Session. For no less than fifty subjects (without exaggeration) were more or less dealt with in a sitting, long for the second night of the Session. Private members were responsible for at least five-and-forty bills, some of them new, some resurrections, many of them of the driest and most rattling of bones; and as some of the attempts at galvanism were made, there came out slight contemptuous laughter. There was an effort on the Report on the Address to revive the debate which was extinguished on Friday, and Mr. George Bentinck croakingly, but with none of his ancient pungey, complained that nothing was right; and representative Home Rulers, like Mr. O'Connor Power and Mr. J. Martin, pronounced that if they and their co-thinkers were not relegated to an Irish Parliament, they would tease and bother the united legislature into madness. Then Lord Edmund Fitzmaurice, in his perky way, signified that he was astonished that no mention was made of University Reform in the Queen's Speech; and Colonel Beresford, in a bewildered manner, strove to intimate that he had discovered somewhere in the East an alarming complication in foreign policy.

Woeful accounts were given by Mr. Ronayne of the condition of Ireland, upon which Mr. George Clive, who has sat for Hereford, off and on, for many years, appeared in the character of an Irish landlord, and traversed all the lackadaisical statements about that country which had been gleaned out. Lightly and amusingly Mr. Disraeli touched on each topic of complaint, adapting himself most happily in dealing with the idiosyncracies of the different complainants.

It is curious that on the third night of the Session some Conservative members were found, as it were, in revolt against their chief. At any rate, in the matter of the suspension of the writ for an election at Stroud, Mr. C. E. Lewis withstood strenuously the opinion of the Prime Minister, which coincided with that of most of the Opposition, represented by Sir William Harcourt and Mr. Whitbread, and almost angrily took a division, followed by some of his own party and a few of the Liberals, of whom Sir Wilfrid Lawson was a type, instead of yielding a docile assent to organised authority.

PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The second Session of the ninth Parliament of Queen Victoria was opened yesterday week by Commission, the Commissioners being the Lord Chancellor, the Marquis of Hertford, the Earl of Malmesbury, and Lord Skelmersdale. The Lord Chancellor read the Queen's Speech, as follows:—

THE ROYAL MESSAGE.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

It is with great satisfaction that I again meet you and resort to the advice and assistance of my Parliament.

I continue to receive assurances of friendship from all foreign Powers. The peace of Europe has remained, and I trust will remain, unbroken. To preserve and consolidate it will ever be a main object of my endeavours.

The conference held at Brussels on the laws and usages of war has concluded its sittings. My Government have carefully examined the reports of its proceedings; but, bearing in mind, on the one hand, the importance of the principles involved, and, on the other, the widely divergent opinions which were there expressed and the improbability of their being reconciled, I have not thought it right to accede to proposals which have been made for further negotiations on the subject. The correspondence which has passed will be presented to you.

The Government of Spain, presided over by Marshal Serrano has ceased to exist, and the Prince of Asturias has been called to the throne under the title of King Alfonso XII. The question of formally recognising, in concert with other Powers, the newly-restored Monarchy is at this moment before my Government, and its decision will not be long delayed. It is my earnest hope that internal peace may be speedily restored to a great but unfortunate country.

The exertions of my naval and consular servants in the repression of the East African slave trade have not been relaxed, and I confidently trust that they will bring about the complete extinction of a traffic equally repugnant to humanity and injurious to legitimate commerce.

The differences which had arisen between China and Japan, and which at one time threatened to lead to war between those States, have been happily adjusted. I have learnt with pleasure that the good offices of my Minister at Peking have been largely instrumental in bringing about this result.

The past year has been one of general prosperity and progress throughout my colonial empire.

On the Gold Coast a steady advance has been made in the establishment of civil government, peace has been maintained, and I have procured the assent of the protected tribes to the abolition of slavery. Henceforward, I trust, freedom will exist there, as in every part of my dominions.

In Natal, I have found myself under the necessity of reviewing the sentence which had been passed upon a native chief, and of considering the condition of the tribes, and their relations to the European settlers and my Government. I doubt not that I shall have your concurrence in any measures which it may become my duty to adopt for ensuring a wise and humane system of native administration in that part of South Africa.

Papers will be laid before you on these several matters.

The King and chiefs of Fiji having made a new offer of their islands unfettered by conditions, I have thought it right to accept the cession of a territory which, independently of its large natural resources, offers important maritime advantages to my fleets in the Pacific.

An ample harvest has restored prosperity to the provinces of my Eastern Empire, which, last year, were visited with famine. By the blessing of Providence my Indian Government has been able entirely to avert the loss of life which I had reason to apprehend from that great calamity.

GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,

I have directed the estimates of the year to be prepared and presented to you without delay.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

The condition of the finances is satisfactory. The trade of the country in the past year has somewhat fallen short of that of the year before, but the general prosperity of the people, supported as it has been by an excellent harvest, as well as by the great reductions lately made in taxation, has led to a steady increase in the consumption of all the necessities of life, and of those articles which contribute to the revenue.

The various statutes of an exceptional or temporary nature now in force for the preservation of peace in Ireland will be brought to your notice with a view to determine whether some of them may not be dispensed with.

Several measures which were unavoidably postponed at the end of last Session will be again introduced. Among the most important are those for simplifying the transfer of land and completing the reconstruction of the judicature.

Bills also will be laid before you for facilitating the improvement of the dwellings of the working classes in large towns; for the consolidation and amendment of the sanitary laws; and for the prevention of the pollution of rivers.

A measure has been prepared for consolidating and amending the laws relating to friendly societies. Its object will be to assist, without unnecessarily interfering with, the laudable efforts of my people to make provision for themselves against some of the calamities of life.

A bill for the amendment of the Merchant Shipping Acts will be laid before you.

Your attention will be moreover directed to legislation for the better security of my subjects from personal violence, and for more effectually providing for the trial of offences by establishing the office of a Public Prosecutor.

Although the report of the Commission issued by me to inquire into the state and working of the law as to offences connected with trade has not yet been made to me, I trust that any legislation on this subject which may be found to be expedient may take place in the present Session.

You will also be invited to consider a measure for improving the law as to agricultural tenancies.

I commend to your careful consideration these and other measures which may be submitted to you, and I pray that your deliberations may, under the Divine blessing, result in the happiness and contentment of my people.

The Address in answer to the Royal Speech was moved by Lord Donoughmore, who prefaced his observations by expressing his deep regret at the cause which had prevented her Majesty from opening Parliament in person, though he hoped that in a short time all reason for her Majesty's maternal

anxiety would have passed away. He then touched on the various topics embraced in the Speech from the Throne. With regard to the Brussels Conference, he approved the course pursued by the Government, as he believed that it would be impossible to lay down any rules on the subject of the laws and usages of war which would meet with general acceptance. He rejoiced at the exertions made for the suppression of the East African slave trade, and expressed a hope that Spain would, with a settled and recognised Government, maintain freedom and liberty of conscience. Speaking of the famine in Bengal, he bore personal testimony to the energy displayed by the Viceroy of India in the prompt adoption of measures for the alleviation of the distress. In alluding to the paragraph in the Queen's Speech relative to the colonies, he expressed deep sympathy with Lord Carnarvon on account of the great calamity under which he was now suffering. He anticipated great advantage from the law reform bills which it was proposed to lay before Parliament, as well as from the promised amendment of the sanitary laws; and, if it should be found consistent with safety to life and property in Ireland to dispense with any of the exceptional statutes for the preservation of the peace of that country, he was sure that no persons would more sincerely rejoice at the circumstance than the landed gentlemen of Ireland. Lord Rayleigh, in seconding the Address, expressed his great gratification at the prospect of the recovery of the young Prince, whose illness had deprived the House of Lords of the Queen's presence on the opening of Parliament; and then, alluding to the subjects mentioned in the Royal Speech, he said that he thought the amicable relations of this country with foreign powers must be matter of congratulation with their Lordships at the time when the great Powers on the Continent were vastly increasing their armed forces. It was satisfactory to learn from the Queen's Speech that the people were generally prosperous, and he thought that the first business of a minister was not to introduce "blazing" measures, but to give tranquillity to the nation. He was glad to hear that measures were in contemplation for the amendment and improvement of the sanitary laws, as at present there was great confusion in the statutes on the subject, some of them conflicting with others. He believed that no labour would be thrown away in improving the laws relating to friendly societies and securing from fraud and mismanagement the funds of the poorer classes; and, touching on matters not contained in the Queen's Speech, he expressed his approval of the aid given by Government for observing the transit of Venus and for exploring the Arctic regions. The Earl of Granville, as leader of the Opposition, commented upon the topics of the Queen's Speech, and promised that no factious opposition should be offered to the Government. The Duke of Richmond followed, and expressed his satisfaction at the unanimity with which the Address was to be agreed to.

The House sat for a few minutes only on Monday. Lord Lyttleton laid on the table a bill for the creation of new bishoprics in England and Wales, the second reading of which was fixed for the 23rd inst.

On Tuesday the Lord Chancellor introduced a bill to amend and extend the Supreme Court of Judicature Act, 1873. This measure will consolidate rules of practice and procedure, as defined by the Judges, and contained in the schedule to the Act, with those which had been proposed but had not been submitted to her Majesty before the Act came into operation. After a few remarks by Lords Redesdale, Selborne, and Hatherley, the bill was read the first time. The House also agreed to the first reading of the Free Transfer of Land Bill, brought in by the Lord Chancellor, with the object of simplifying the transfer of land by not rendering it compulsory on buyers and sellers of small plots in towns to register the title. Another bill introduced was one by the Bishop of Peterborough relating to simoniacal practices in the Church.

Their Lordships met on Thursday; but, there being no business on the paper, they soon afterwards adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

In the Commons the first business yesterday week was the swearing of members elected during the recess, and new writs were moved for Chatham and Dublin University. Nearly sixty notices of bills and motions were given. The Address in answer to the Speech from the Throne was moved by the Hon. E. Stanhope. He began by a feeling reference to the illness of Prince Leopold and by expressing the universal satisfaction caused by the assurance of his improving condition. Touching briefly, with approval, on the topics of foreign policy dealt with in the opening paragraphs of the Speech, he called particular attention to its language in regard to our Colonial Empire, and congratulated the House on the complete disappearance of the disintegrating policy and the substitution for it of a policy which treated the Colonies as an integral portion of the Empire. He hailed with pleasure and sanguine hope the prospect of settling the landlord and tenant question, and expatiated with much earnestness on the immense benefits to be reaped by the country from a bold and well-considered measure of sanitary improvement. Mr. Whitelaw, in seconding the motion, touched in detail upon the topics of the Speech. In regard to Spain, there were, in the quietness of the recent change, and the apparently large concurrence of opinion in Spain in favour of it, good grounds for believing that the future of the country might be distinguished by the stability of government and the confidence necessary for national progress. The House would be pleased with the united agency at work for the extinction of slavery on the East Coast of Africa. Peace and security prevailed in Ireland. Sanitary measures formed an important question, and it was well that Parliament should, in the absence of exciting political topics, devote itself to the consideration of the health of the population, which was prejudicially affected by such evils as overcrowding, ill-ventilation, houses too closely built together, improper sewerage, and the pollution of rivers. He hoped also that the Session would not pass without the House perfecting a shipping measure. Then Lord Hartington, as leader of the Opposition, criticised the Speech, pointing out some omissions from it, and concluding with observations on the policy of the Government, of which he approved, inasmuch as, in his opinion, it differed little from that of the late Government. Mr. Disraeli briefly, but pointedly, replied. He complimented Lord Hartington on the able manner in which he had dealt with the subjects reviewed, and congratulated the Opposition upon having secured a leader of so much promise. Alluding to the noble Lord's criticism of the paragraph relating to recent affairs in Spain, he reminded him that her Majesty's Government were acting in concert with other foreign Powers on the subject of recognising the new Sovereign; and he undertook to vindicate the decision of the Government as soon as it had been arrived at. On the subject of local taxation and administration, Mr. Disraeli reminded the House that last year very substantial relief had been given to the local taxpayers, and pointed out that several of the measures to be introduced dealt incidentally with local administration, and would lay the foundation for an improved system. To the latter part of Lord Hartington's speech Mr. Disraeli made a lively reply, protesting that the Conservative policy must be gathered from those who were its responsible exponents, and not

from grotesque reminiscences of violent speeches in obscure places by unimportant persons, nor from absurd articles in unimportant papers which nobody read. The Address was then agreed to unanimously.

Mr. E. Stanhope having, on Monday, brought up the report of the Address in answer to the Speech from the Throne, there was a discussion on its contents and omissions. Sir G. Bowyer asked for careful consideration of the Judicature Act; Mr. G. Bentinck complained of the inefficiency of the Army and Navy, and the impunity with which railway accidents were caused; Mr. O'Connor Power and Mr. J. Martin promised a continued struggle for Home Rule in Ireland; Lord E. Fitzmaurice asked for University Reform; Colonel Beresford spoke of complications likely to arise in foreign affairs; after which Mr. Disraeli, in a brief and conciliatory speech, replied to all the salient points put by honourable members, and the report on the Address was agreed to. Then Mr. Cross brought in his bill for the better providing of dwellings for the working classes, the main provisions of which are that its operation at present should be confined to the metropolis and large towns, that its working should be entrusted to the Corporation of London, the Metropolitan Board of Works, and the town councils, these bodies to be put in motion by the officers of health. Improvement schemes, also, should provide dwellings for persons displaced by those improvements, which must be sanctioned by the Secretary of State or the President of the Local Government Board, who, in order to save the expense of Parliamentary bills, should pass provisional orders authorising the carrying out of the schemes. Everything else would be left to the local authorities, who would have power to lease or sell land obtained to persons undertaking to erect houses for the working classes. The bill was generally approved by the House. The Chancellor of the Exchequer brought in a bill to amend the law relating to friendly societies, which was a modification of his measure of last year; a bill for amending the law relating to regimental exchanges was brought in by Mr. Gathorne Hardy; and Sir C. Adderley introduced one to amend the Merchant Shipping Acts. After this about forty bills were presented.

On Tuesday the Prime Minister suggested that, as there was no business set down for the first Wednesday in the Session, the House might as well adjourn till Thursday; and this proposal was agreed to. Mr. C. E. Lewis moved that the writ for an election at Strand be suspended for the present Session. The motion was opposed by Sir W. Vernon Harcourt, the Solicitor-General, Mr. Whitbread, and Mr. Disraeli; and supported by Lord Robert Montague, Sir Wilfrid Lawson, and Mr. Gregory; and eventually lost on a division by 225 to 41. Sir William Fraser then brought forward a resolution to the effect that the condition of the metropolis, as regards lighting, paving, and cleansing, calls for legislation; but the motion was withdrawn. It was proposed by Mr. Heygate to renew the rule of the last two Sessions by which no opposed business can be taken after half-past twelve at night. A modifying amendment by Mr. Dillwyn was rejected on a division by 91 to 49, and the original motion was agreed to. Several more bills were introduced; and amongst them were one, by Mr. Whitwell, for the establishment of tribunals of commerce; and another, by Sir Thomas Chambers, to legalise marriage with a deceased wife's sister.

On Thursday several notices of motion were given. The Chancellor of the Exchequer introduced a bill to consolidate, and a bill to amend the Acts relating to loans for public works. Mr. Slater-Booth introduced a bill for consolidating and amending the Acts relating to public health in England. Mr. Dodds introduced a bill to amend the law regulating municipal elections. Mr. Bruen introduced a bill to reform and assimilate the systems of local self-government in force in certain cities and towns in Ireland. Mr. Downing obtained leave to bring in a bill to amend certain Acts relating to the removal of Irish paupers with their families back to Ireland. Mr. Bourke obtained leave for the introduction of a bill to amend the law relating to International Copyright. Sir C. Dilke obtained leave to bring in a bill to extend the Act of the 2nd William IV., c. 42, relating to allotments extension. Mr. H. B. Sheridan obtained leave to bring in a bill on the subject of foreign loans and public works registration. Lord Elcho obtained leave to bring in a bill for creating a county and municipality of London. The above bills were severally read the first time.

Mr. Samuel Bough was on Wednesday elected a member of the Royal Scottish Academy, in the room of Mr. W. Smellie Watson, portrait-painter, deceased.

The annual autumn exhibition of pictures at Liverpool will this year be opened to the public on the first Monday in September, and closed on the first Saturday in December.

The Berkshire Hunt Ball, given by Mr. Hargreaves, took place at the Townhall, Reading, on Thursday week, when a most brilliant assembly, numbering over 400, were present.

Oscar II., King of Norway and Sweden, has conferred upon the author of "Tent Life with English Gipsies in Norway," a gold medal *de literis et artibus*.

Mr. Wiseman, the editor of the *Methodist Recorder*, one of the general secretaries of the Wesleyan Conference, and President in 1871, died of heart disease on Wednesday week.

The Howard Association has received a photograph of the great philanthropist's tomb at Kherson, which has lately been restored by order of the Russian Government. It is added that the municipality of Kherson is going to erect a new tomb.

Through a misunderstanding it was reported, on Sunday, at Plymouth, that the Coldstream, which had arrived off Torbay on the previous day, had two more survivors of the Cospatrik on board. There was, however, no truth in the rumour.

The *Gazette* contains an announcement that a Royal license has been granted to the Hon. Spencer Cecil Brabazon Ponsonby, of Brympton d'Evercey, Somerset, in compliance with a clause contained in the will of his aunt, Lady Cecily Jane Georgiana Fane, to use the surname of Fane in addition to that of Ponsonby, and to quarter the arms of Fane with his own family arms.

Mr. E. Greene, M.P., has intimated his intention to retire from the mastership of the Suffolk Hunt. Mr. Villebois will also retire from that of the West Norfolk hounds at the close of the season, Mr. A. Hamond succeeding him. The committee of the Herts Hunt has decided to offer the mastership to Mr. F. Platt of Doncaster, for three years, with an annual subscription of £1800.

Captain Rodgers, of the ship *Marchmont*, of Glasgow, was on Tuesday presented, in the office of the Leith Mercantile Marine Board, with a valuable silver-mounted telescope, given by the Emperor of Germany. During a heavy gale Captain Rodgers sighted the German barque *Haydn*, and, after the most heroic conduct, succeeded in rescuing the whole crew. The Emperor, having been informed of the circumstance, forwarded the gift, and accompanied it with a flattering letter.

METROPOLITAN NEWS.

Resolutions in favour of early closing were passed at a meeting of employers in South Lambeth, held on Wednesday night.

On the motion of Alderman Sydney, it has been agreed by the Court of Aldermen to refer to a committee the proposal to erect a new Council Chamber, at a cost of £50,000.

The public meeting on behalf of the Palestine Exploration Fund at the Royal Institution announced to be held this (Saturday) evening, has been unavoidably deferred.

The inaugural address which is to herald a course of lectures on homeopathy was given at the London Homoeopathic Hospital last week. Nearly sixty medical men were present.

The annual ball in aid of the funds of the French Benevolent Society took place, on Monday evening, at Willis's Rooms, and was in every way successful.

Last Saturday the paddle-steamer *Rio Grande*, for the Brazilian National Steam Navigation Company, was successfully launched from the building-yard, at Deptford, of Messrs. W. Walker and Co.

The new workshops erected in connection with the National Industrial Home for Crippled Boys at Kensington were opened on Tuesday. A public meeting was held, at which Lord Shaftesbury presided.

Mr. William Babington, late of the Bight of Biafra, read, before the African section of the Society of Arts, on Tuesday night, a paper, in which he gave an interesting account of the various kinds of trading on the West Coast of Africa, and expressed an opinion that gold-fields are to be found there.

The nineteenth anniversary festival of the Dramatic, Equestrian, and Musical Sick Fund Association took place at Willis's Rooms, on Wednesday, under the presidency of Mr. H. B. Farnie. Mrs. Stirling, as usual, rendered her valuable aid. There was a concert, under the direction of Mr. F. Kingsbury, and a quadrille party followed.

Lord Shaftesbury presided at the annual distribution of prizes to the successful students at the Birkbeck Literary and Scientific Institution, which took place last Saturday evening. The Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol, Mr. Forsyth, M.P., Mr. Mundella, M.P., Mr. E. Jenkins, M.P., the Hon. Evelyn Ashley, M.P., and Sir G. Campbell were amongst the speakers.

Mr. F. G. Hilton Price, F.G.S., on Monday evening, read, at a meeting of the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society, a paper on the history of Temple Bar and of Messrs. Child's bank. Mr. Price gave a large amount of information, gained from searches into the archives of the bank, which had been stowed away in the chamber over the Bar for two centuries.

The Thames Swimming Baths Company last week towed up the pontoon or floating basin of their baths to the site assigned for it near Charing-Cross railway bridge on the Victoria Embankment, where it was placed in position. When completed the bath, it is said, will accommodate several hundreds of swimmers at any state of the tide. The water will be kept clear by means of a filtering process.

Under the presidency of Sir H. Rawlinson, and in the presence of the Prince of Wales, a meeting of the Royal Geographical Society was held on Monday night, at which Admiral Sir J. H. Richards read an important and interesting paper on the route to be taken towards the North Pole by the Arctic expedition of 1875. The First Lord of the Admiralty, who was amongst the audience, hoped that the expedition would be a success, and added that his department had done everything possible to make it one.

The London School Board at its weekly meeting on Wednesday authorised the borrowing of £74,000 from the Public Works Commissioners, making a total debt of £1,234,915 incurred for school building. Several new regulations were adopted relative to the selection and training of pupil-teachers. A report was presented by the industrial schools committee, recommending the establishment of a school at Hastings in connection with the Roman Catholic School at Deptford. A committee was appointed to inquire into the endowments available for higher education in the elementary schools of the metropolis.

A meeting of the Metropolitan Board of Works was held yesterday week—Colonel Hogg in the chair. The Parliamentary committee submitted the heads of the proposed bill for the regulation of the metropolitan gas companies. Among the more important provisions of the intended measure are: the conditions to be applied to all the gas companies to be as far as possible uniform; the standard sixteen candles; the maximum price 3s. 9d. per 1000; the maximum dividend 10 per cent; no amalgamation of companies to take place without the consent of the board; to be three referees, one to be appointed by the Corporation, one by the above board, and one by the Board of Trade; and an auditor to have the right of making a continuous audit during the half-year. Mr. Newton, in moving the adoption of the report, urged that the consumers could only secure immunity from high charges by acting on the suggestions contained in the report, which had been jointly agreed to by the committee, many of those suggestions having come from the Corporation of London. After a few observations from Mr. Alderman Sidney, Mr. Fowler, Mr. Leslie, and others, the whole of the suggestions were put and agreed to.

There were 2585 births and 1552 deaths registered in London last week. The births exceeded by 68, whereas the deaths were 109 below, the average numbers. The annual death-rate from all causes, which in the two previous weeks had been 24 and 25 per 1000, declined again last week to 24. The deaths referred to diseases of the respiratory organs, which in the five preceding weeks had steadily declined from 897 to 403, rose last week to 429, and exceeded the corrected weekly average by 28: 278 resulted from bronchitis, 88 from pneumonia, and 22 from asthma. There were 2 deaths from smallpox, 9 from measles, 43 from scarlet fever, 7 from diphtheria, 47 from whooping-cough, 27 from different forms of fever, and 9 from diarrhoea. The total prevalence of scarlet fever continues to decline. The 27 deaths from fever included 2 certified as typhus, 18 as enteric or typhoid fever, and 7 as simple continued fever. In the "Greater London" 3101 births and 1832 deaths were registered, equal to annual rates of 38.5 and 22.7 per 1000 of the population. In the outer ring the death rate from all causes, and from the seven principal zymotic diseases, was 19.2 and 1.8 per 1000 respectively, against 23.5 and 2.2 in Inner London.

The challenge shield, of ebony, with silver plates of ornamental blazonry, which was shown in one of our illustrations last week, had been presented on the Monday, at Aldershot Camp, to the second battalion of the 21st (Royal North British) Fusiliers. This pleasing ceremony was performed by Mrs. Collingwood, wife of Colonel W. P. Collingwood, commanding the regiment. The shield was received by Captain Thorburn on behalf of the A Company, which had won the right to hold it for the year, in the late shooting competition between the different companies in the battalion. It is a gift from the officers of the regiment.



THE LATE SIR W. STERNDALE BENNETT.



PRACTICE WITH THE NEW MARTINI-HENRY RIFLE.



ST. VALENTINE'S DAY: "WHO CAN HAVE SENT IT?"

THE LATE SIR W. STERNDALE BENNETT.

The lamented death of this eminent musician and composer, which took place on Monday week, at his house in St. John's-wood, was mentioned in our last. His funeral was performed on Saturday in Westminster Abbey. A requisition to the Dean and Chapter for the privilege of interment there had been signed by a number of influential persons, among whom were the Duke of Edinburgh, Earl Dudley and Ward, and the Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol. The Queen, as well as these and other persons of rank, sent her carriage to attend the funeral procession, which consisted of some thirty vehicles. Twelve pall-bearers were selected to represent three institutions—the Royal Academy of Music, the Philharmonic Society, and the Royal Society of Musicians. The University of Cambridge and the German Athenæum were also represented. The service was read by the Dean of Westminster and Canon Conway; but the anthem, "God is a Spirit," from Sterndale Bennett's oratorio, "The Woman of Samaria," was effectively given by the choir. The grave is in the north aisle, near those of Croft and Purcell, of Samuel Arnold and John Blow, excellent composers of a former age.

William Sterndale Bennett was born at Sheffield, on April 13, 1816. At a very early age he entered the choir of King's College Chapel, Cambridge; and when only ten years old became a student in the Royal Academy of Music. He was successively a pupil of Dr. Crotch, Mr. Cipriani Potter,

and Mr. W. H. Holmes. The youth very soon attracted public notice by his excellent compositions for the pianoforte, and his own admirable performance of them. The first of his four concertos was produced when he was but sixteen, and it was Mendelssohn's hearing of this work that laid the foundation of the strong and lasting friendship between the two composers. In 1836 Bennett went to Leipsic, where Mendelssohn was conductor of the celebrated Gewandhaus Concerts; and the young Englishman's compositions and his pianoforte-playing there met with hearty recognition. Robert Schumann has left enthusiastic written testimony to his merits in both departments. In 1856 Bennett became conductor of the Philharmonic Society, which post he resigned in 1868. At the same period as that of his Philharmonic appointment he was chosen Professor of Music at the University of Cambridge, and he also received his Doctor's degree at that time. It was in 1868 that Bennett was appointed Principal of the Royal Academy of Music. His exertions in forwarding the interests of this institution, at a large sacrifice of time which he could have employed with much greater pecuniary advantage to himself, were among the many instances of his unselfish disposition.

Although the chief portions of Bennett's compositions are for the pianoforte, he has produced other works which will also secure him an abiding reputation. Such are, more especially, his overtures, "The Naiades," "The Wood Nymphs," and "Paradise and the Peri;" his cantata, "The May Queen" (produced at the Leeds Festival of 1858), his oratorio, "The

Woman of Samaria" (composed for the Birmingham Festival of 1867), and his symphony in G minor (written for the Philharmonic Society). His latest published work is the charming sonata for pianoforte solo, entitled "The Maid of Orleans," which has been recently played in this country and in Germany with signal success.

In March, 1871, Bennett was knighted; but neither this nor any other form of worldly success had power to make any difference in his native modesty of manner and avoidance of self-assertion. No musician ever pursued his art with purer motives and more honourable conduct.

Our portrait of Sir W. Sterndale Bennett is from a photograph by the London Stereoscopic Company.

According to the quarterly return of the Registrar-General, in the United Kingdom the births of 275,754 children and the deaths of 186,947 persons of both sexes were registered in the three months ending Dec. 31. The natural increase of population was thus 88,807. The registered number of persons married in the quarter ending Sept. 30 was 119,424. With respect to England, it appears that the marriage-rate in the quarter that ended on Sept. 30 was a slight shade below the average. The births in the three months that ended on Dec. 31 exceeded the average, and were more than 7000 in excess of the numbers in the corresponding quarter of the previous year. The deaths were also above the average.

THE MARTINI-HENRY RIFLE.

The most improved kind of modern small-arms has just been given to our Army, and is acknowledged to be the best military rifle in use in any country. It will be interesting to know in what a degree our offensive military power has been increased by the late general order. Extra rounds of ammunition have been issued (outside of the annual course of instruction) to make the soldiers familiar with their new weapon. Our Illustration, from a sketch by Captain H. S. Rolby, of the 91st Regiment, instructor of the 58th Brigade Depot, represents a section of men on the range and the sergeant leading off, when the danger flag is lowered and the signal to "commence fire" is sounded by the bugler. The men are watching the shot and preparing to come out in turn, either to achieve the possible "bull's-eye" or the more frequent "centre" and "outer." The officer is keeping the register of shots fired. In the foreground appears the usual dog. It will be noticed that the "stand at ease" position has been altered to suit the shorter rifle. The men appear eager to get a good score out of their trial rounds. The object is to give them a belief in their extra powers with the new rifle by actual proof. Our infantry regulars have numbers of men amongst them who are first-rate marksmen. It may be that more frequent practice and larger expenditure of money on ammunition gets the volunteer force the credit of being superior in this respect; but this is the result of often comparing the feats of good picked scores, such as are mentioned in the newspapers, with a general average obtained by men who only expend a limited number of rounds in one training, and are not popping away all the year round.

ST. VALENTINE'S DAY.

The Postmaster-General, whose central establishment at St. Martin's-le-Grand is partly described, with several Illustrations, in our Supplement of this week, has had a word to say about St. Valentine's Day. As the fourteenth of February this year falls on a Sunday, he has requested that the festival of epistolary love-making be kept on the preceding day. All persons, male or female, who intended to play at the customary game of sending fanciful missives, complimentary or satirical, to their acquaintance of the opposite sex, were desired to post their correspondence of that kind on Friday. This was to save the delivery of an enormous mass of letters on Sunday morning. We learn from the Postmaster-General's last annual report that, on the eve of St. Valentine in 1873, not fewer than 306 extra mail-bags, each three feet long and two feet wide, were used at the Chief Office alone for the conveyance of the valentines posted in London to different parts of the kingdom. Upon this occasion the work of stamping and sorting, and of making up the bags, is continued all through the night without intermission. The work that is cast upon the letter-carriers in the delivery of such a vast quantity of letters and packets during the next day is beyond our means of reckoning. But it is, like all the other post-office work, a paying business for her Majesty's Government, which draws from this grand public service, on the whole, a net revenue exceeding £1,500,000. St. Valentine, and the fondness or folly of young people, contribute their share to that pecuniary gain. From the child that stands on tiptoe to drop her painted card, with its pretty lined-paper envelope, into a pillar-box in the street, or else in the passage of her parents' house, peeps slyly into the receiving-box under the slit in the front door, to espy the valentine just arrived, all who deal in this sportive exchange of mimic anatomy messages, are worth a copper coin, at least, to their Queen and country. It is a light tax, very willingly paid; and it serves to encourage the tasteful manufacture of those elegant trifles which Messrs. Marcus Ward, Kimmel, Goode, and others produce with a variety of artistic designs.

But this modern fashion is essentially different from the Valentine customs of former times. No young lady would then have been found sitting in perplexity, with a pasteboard tablet bearing pictorial or floral decorations, and wondering "Who can have sent it?" The ancient superstition held that the first man seen by a woman, or the first woman seen by a man, if both marriageable, on the morning of St. Valentine's Day, was to be his or her lover, revealed by a species of divination, like the tricks of Halloween. It hence became usual for the person thus surprised, being a gentleman, to make the lady a present of some acceptable trinket or article of dress, whether by way of ransom, or in return for the honour she had done him. The gentleman who made any lady his Valentine was equally bound in courtesy to bring her a suitable gift next day. Married people, aged persons, and children were drawn into an imitation of this custom. There was no sending of letters or tokens; a personal meeting was required, or the transaction did not take place. People used to call at each other's houses very early in the morning, and sometimes came to each other's bedside, without any thought of impropriety, for the express purpose of securing a particular person to be their Valentine. In the Diary of Mr. Samuel Pepys, between 1661 and 1669, many anecdotes are related of this curious observance. Friends would choose each other's wives for Valentines, and be very merry together; they would all next day go to the New Exchange, and buy embroidered gloves and silk stockings for the two ladies, at the expense of the two husbands. Mr. Pepys always takes care to let us know exactly how

much he had to spend: but he was pleased to see his Valentine, Mrs. Martha Batten, wearing the fine gloves he had given her at church next Sunday. Another time it is "Dick Pen, a handsome, stout, witty boy," who comes to the bedside of Mr. and Mrs. Pepys and gives Mrs. Pepys a waking kiss, to be her Valentine, at which Mr. Pepys is vastly amused. "Little Will Mercer" is her next year's visitor on Feb. 14, bringing her a blue card with her name in gold letters on it while Mr. Pepys is dressing. But the ladies had a privilege on St. Valentine's Eve of drawing by lot the names of gentlemen to be their Valentines; and if next day they met the gentleman so appointed, any lady might challenge or call upon her own. Mrs. Pepys, for one, did not scruple to do so, though she was always sure, in any event, of a gold ring or some other gift from her husband, by virtue of a standing agreement that she was to be his Valentine, whatever other Valentine he might have beside her. The process of drawing lots for Valentines in that old-fashioned style is the subject of one of our sketches devoted to this pleasant theme.

LAW AND POLICE.

Mr. Justice Field, the newly-appointed Judge in the Court of Queen's Bench, was sworn in on Saturday; and at the same time Mr. Justice Archibald took the oaths on being transferred to the Court of Common Pleas. Mr. Justice Honyman has resigned his judgeship in the Court of Common Pleas.

Mr. G. C. Norton, formerly one of the metropolitan police magistrates, pleads in the *Times* the cause of his late colleagues. He places the utmost reliance upon the declaration made by Mr. Secretary Cross last year and, assuming that the delay in carrying out the desired increase in the salaries of the magistrates is due to financial reasons, points out that a windfall has dropped into the Exchequer which would provide twice the sum necessary. A few months back there died, at a great age, a reverend gentleman, the nephew of a Chancellor long since deceased. By his death an annuity fell in which will in amount give the London magistrates what they deserve and leave a handsome surplus over. Mr. Norton looks to Mr. Cross to bring the matter to a satisfactory settlement.

At Guildhall, yesterday week, Alderman Sir Thomas Gabriel resumed the hearing of the charge of libel brought against the *World* newspaper by Messrs. Beyfus and Boss, money-lenders, of Sackville-street, Piccadilly. After hearing the remainder of the evidence and the addresses of counsel, the Court came to the conclusion that the allegation of malicious motives had not been proved; and that, in the public interest, there were good and ample grounds for the publication of the statements complained of. The summons was therefore dismissed.

The Newent libel case, which occupied the Court of Exchequer several days, ended in a verdict against the proprietor of the *Gloucester Journal* with £200 damages.

Two actions to recover compensation for injuries were tried at the Court of Common Pleas last Saturday. In one case Mr. Brett, who had been seriously hurt in a collision between his carriage and a car of the London Tramways Company, was awarded £550 damages; and in the other, Mr. Taylor obtained a verdict of £125 against the Great Northern Railway Company for injuries sustained in an accident near King's-cross. An action having been brought against the Metropolitan District Railway Company, on Monday, for injuries sustained by a gentleman's child through the slamming of a carriage door on its finger, a verdict for the plaintiff was returned, but leave was reserved to move the full Court on the subject.

In the Irish breach of promise of marriage case, "Shiels v. Sheridan," the jury awarded the plaintiff £200 damages. The defendant, who admitted the promise, intimated his willingness to carry it out. He was considerably over fifty years of age.

At the Mansion House, Mr. Smith, proprietor of the Continental Daily Parcels Express Agency, was summoned, yesterday week, for the detention of parcels containing money forwarded from Russia to Mr. Sydney Montague. The defence was that the Russian Government had prohibited their delivery. The Lord Mayor dismissed the summons, with costs.

Mrs. Progers has had to pay, by order of the Westminster magistrate, a cabman's fare of 2s. 6d. and the costs of the summons, in a case in which a driver had refused to convey her for more than an hour by time and distance.

In answer to the circular respecting the punishment of crimes of violence which was issued by the Home Secretary, last October, the Judges of the common law courts, many chairmen of quarter sessions, magistrates, recorders, and others have expressed opinions, with but few exceptions, in favour of an extension of the penalty of flogging for such offences, qualified, generally, by the recommendation that the power to inflict such punishment should rest only with the higher tribunals of justice.

George Grey, the man who drove the cab from which Lady De Trafford lost her jewels, has been fined £5 (or two months' imprisonment in default) for driving with a license which did not belong to him; a similar penalty being imposed on Richard Wainwright, the

man to whom the license belonged, for having unlawfully parted with it, and the license was revoked.

Four sailors, of the steam-ship *Marguerite*, charged at the Mansion House with having smuggled a large quantity of tobacco by hiding it on board that vessel, have been fined £100 each, and ordered to be imprisoned till the penalties should be paid. The Excise officers captured two women who, on landing from a boat at the Temple-pier, were found to be in possession of a large quantity of smuggled tobacco.

A sharper who stole a watch and chain from a countryman by what is called "the confidence dodge," and was apprehended by him a month afterwards under singular circumstances, was tried at the Middlesex Sessions, on Monday, and sentenced to five years' penal servitude. Trials for robbery of various kinds took place on Tuesday. In one case a woman was sentenced to ten years' penal servitude and five years' police supervision for stealing a locket. Christina Vivian, a young lady said to be well connected, upon being put on her trial, on Wednesday, for having stolen two gold watches, pleaded guilty, admitting that she had yielded to a sudden temptation. Considering the circumstances of the case, the Assistant Judge accepted a surety offered for her, and allowed her to be released on the understanding that she should come up for judgment if called upon.

At the Liverpool Police Court, John William Harrison, who has "conscientious objections" to vaccination, on the ground that it is dangerous to health and opposed to the laws of nature, has been fined 10s. and costs for neglecting to have his child vaccinated within the proper time.

Mr. Costello, proprietor of an hotel at Howth, has been committed for trial for setting fire to his premises with intent to defraud insurance companies.

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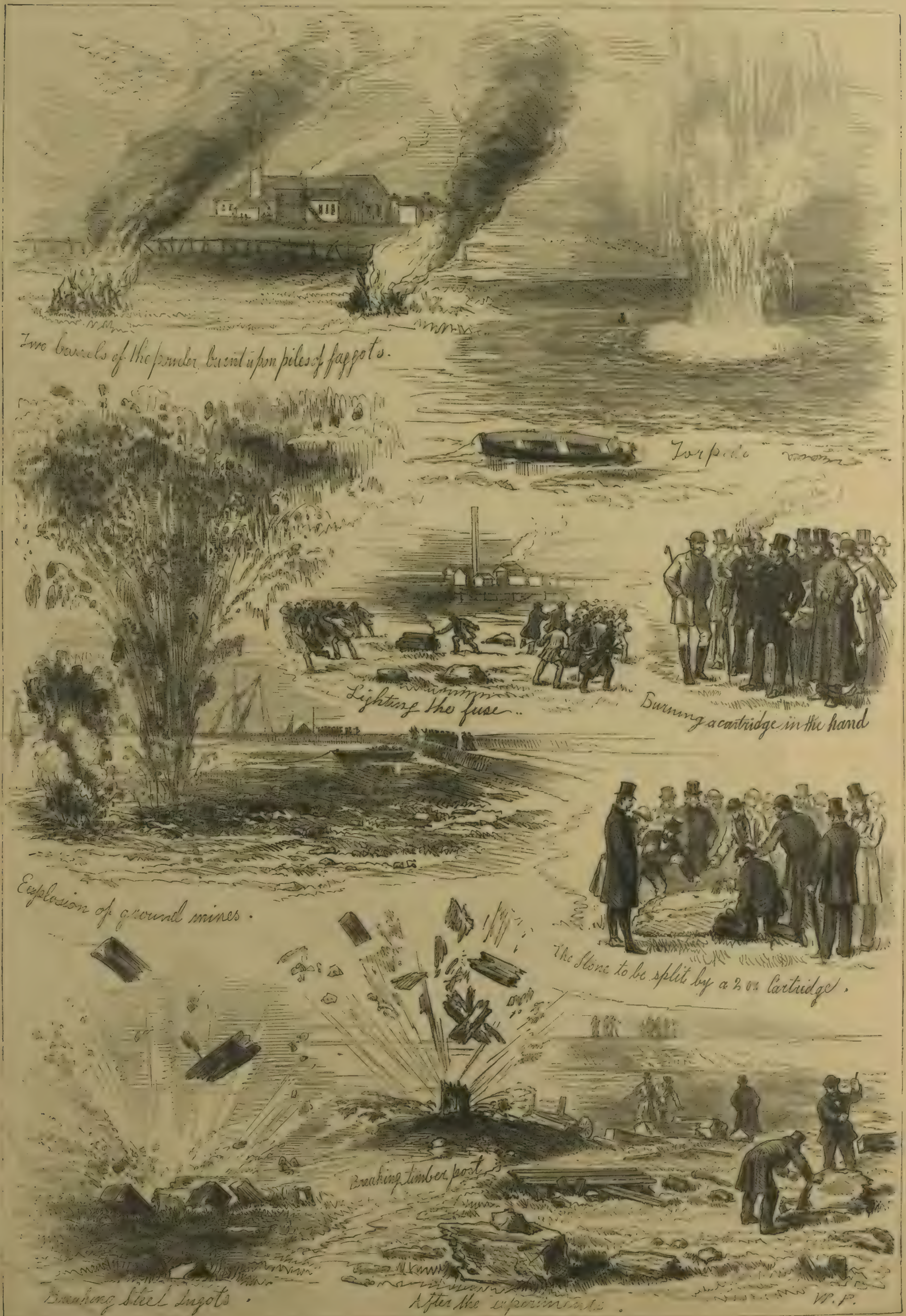
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COTTON-GUNPOWDER.

Amongst the most notable of modern advances in science and manufactures is the progress made in explosives. For more than three hundred years gunpowder had whole fields of useful and destructive work entirely to itself—the quarryman and miner depended on it as much as the soldier, the civil as much as the military engineer. Rifled small-arms and rifled cannon soon caused great changes even in gunpowder; and the shooting-powder of this day is very far superior to that compound of "villainous saltpetre" with which our troops in the past century won those battles, the memory of which is treasured amongst the glories of England. But the modern miner, the modern quarry-owner, and the modern engineer are no longer content with common gunpowder, when the chemists of the age offer explosives far stronger and more effective, with far greater safety, than the "old black lady," as the sportsmen jocosely call it, who fire with smokeless Schultze's sawdust or Reeve's felt.

For practical commercial operations two classes of modern explosives have survived all others—gun-cotton and nitro-glycerine. Both these, in their absolute form, have been productive of grave disasters. The treacherous nature of nitro-glycerine was, some years ago, controlled by its admixture with fine siliceous earth; and a large trade has sprung up in the compound dynamite. Gun-cotton has struggled on, through good repute and evil repute, and has been kept from mischief by storing it, transporting it, and using it wet. In regard to explosives, however, the maxim of Cromwell to his troops, to trust in Providence and keep their powder dry, seems, in spite of cautious ways, to be natural and right. Dynamite cannot be kept dry, because the fluid nitro-glycerine makes the mass oily and plastic; and it cannot be stored under water, because the nitro-glycerine, being heavier than water, would ooze away from the siliceous earth, and such oozings would re-constitute, if permitted, the original source of danger.

A real scientific advance appears to have been made by Mr. S. J. Mackie and his colleagues of the Patent Cotton Gunpowder Works at Faversham, where, on the 3rd inst., a series of most interesting and astonishing demonstrations were made of the new powder these works are turning out for those mining and other purposes in which the sudden evolution of enormous power is required. This manufacture of gun-cotton into a veritable gunpowder by mixing and incorporating it with other oxidising substances is thoroughly corrective of every possible chemical change and even any deficiency of manufacture. Its properties in this condition have been most searchingly investigated by the Professor of Chemistry to the Pharmaceutical Society, Dr. Attfield, on behalf of the railway companies, with respect to which, after having had every detail confided to him, he expresses unhesitatingly his opinion that it is less liable to any spontaneous decomposition than even ordinary gunpowder. Upon this high testimonial and the results of searching investigations carried out in connection therewith some months ago, the Railway Clearing-House admitted the new cotton gunpowder to freedom of transport over all the British railways upon the same terms as common gunpowder—a permission not accorded to any other explosive whatever.

The experiments which took place last week were, in great measure, repetitions of former private trials, and were the first public demonstration the company have made of their cotton blasting-powder. The object was to show the safety and the power of the explosive. The operations were therefore divided into two series indicative of safety and power.

The proceedings began with an exposition of the manufacture, the whole party—upwards of a hundred persons—being taken through the factory without the least reserve whilst all the processes were in full operation. The confidence of the staff and workpeople was fully shared by the visitors, and indeed, the absolute security attained in the works was so abundantly evident as to need no pointing out. The main feature in the manufacture is the complete pulverisation of the gun-cotton by powerful steel mills into an impalpable dust, whereby the thorough washing of that material, and its most intimate incorporation with the chemical substances which are added to form the cotton gunpowder, are attained in a manner never before approached. It is this purity of the gun-cotton, and the peculiar qualities of the oxidising substances added to it, that give to the new powder its excellent qualities, rendering it stable and certain in every climate and under all circumstances. The air-washing of the gun-cotton, which has proved such an efficient means of cleansing it, was also a most interesting operation. A ton of the pulverised gun-cotton is put at a time into a huge vat of water, and kept constantly in ebullition by air blasts driven through it.

After inspecting the factory, the party went out to the open marsh where the materials for the trials had been duly provided. The powder, in the form of a dry white dust, is packed in brown paper cases, with an inner tube to receive and protect the detonator, by the firing of which the charge is to be exploded. These cartridges when set fire to merely burn with a strong flame; and after several had been burnt and others exploded, the superintendent cut one in halves, and lighting one half with a fusee, held it in his fingers whilst the chemist of the works exploded the other half with a detonator on the ground immediately in front of the spectators. Then two 40 lb. barrels were placed on bonfires, and after the lapse of five and ten minutes respectively, the contents ignited and each barrel vomited forth a dense yellow flame as bright as the sun itself. An iron pile-driver, above half a ton in weight, was let fall with great suddenness on a 10 lb. box placed on a pile driven deep into the ground, the rope which held the ponderous weight being instantaneously cut by the firing of a small cartridge attached to it. Then massive ingots of steel 3 ft. 6 in. long and 11 in. square, merely laid together with a charge of 2½ lb. placed in the centre of the pile, were not only all broken asunder clean, as though chopped by a hatchet, but the half-ingots were thrown 30 or 40 ft. into the air, and others to very considerable distances over the marsh; one huge piece, weighing over 7 cwt., trundling away amidst the shouts and laughter of the crowd for a distance of 96 yards. A pile of smaller ingots 3 ft. long and 8 in. square had been previously broken by a 2 lb. charge, and the respect which spectators had thereby learnt for it gave rise to a rather amusing stampede when the foreman of the works set fire to the fuse by which the powder was to be exploded. The destruction wrought upon a stalwart pile of solid strong timber by a charge of 2 lb. merely placed against its side was little less astonishing, nothing but the stump remaining, and the grass around being strewn with splinters. The two 30 lb. ground mines made huge craters, one 22 ft. in diameter and 10 ft. deep; and a 10 lb. charge wetted with 20 per cent of moisture, in which state it was quite incombustible, on being exploded by a detonator in the air, gave a tremendous report, by the concussion of which some windows were demolished in one of the factory-sheds eighty yards away. The finale was the throwing up of a beautiful fountain by a sea-torpedo containing 50 lb. of the powder. All these incidents have been portrayed by our Artist in the numerous sketches by which this article is illustrated. Nothing could exceed the integrity, promptitude, and skill with which the

programme was carried out by the company's able staff, Mr. Faure, Mr. Trench, and Mr. W. Mackie; whilst the care taken of the spectators by the superintendent also merits praise, for the exactitude with which they were brought up to the nearest points of view and yet kept out of danger from flying splinters and fragments.

FINE ARTS.

THE DUDLEY GALLERY.

The Spring Exhibition of Water-Colour Drawings at this gallery maintains the level of former years, although there is perhaps a greater deficiency of figure subjects. The mass of the collection consists either of the works of students who have yet to make their mark, but some of whom will probably be draughted off by-and-by into one of the societies in Pall-mall, or of the works of elder artists, whose chance of progress and consequent promotion yearly diminish, and some of whom practise art in semi-amateur fashion. In this, the bulk of the exhibition, there is much and varied evidence of capacity up to a certain point, and of love of nature. But, on the other hand, the art is of limited aim and untrained character, particularly in the higher departments, such as draughtsmanship of the human figure and composition. Artistic education and the prospects of our school do not keep pace, apparently, with the taste for art which is not only spreading rapidly, but descending also, as proved by the number of small, low-priced drawings which constitute the staple of this exhibition. Contributions of the classes to which we refer are generally too little representative to demand and too numerous to admit of detailed notice.

But there is still a third category of drawings, which serve to leaven and lend importance to the collection. We allude to the contributions of artists of established reputation, chiefly oil-painters, who send here their occasional productions in water colours. Prominent among these on the present occasion is Mr. Poynter, by whom there is a small but beautiful composition (311) representing Venus, wounded in the chase, seeking the aid of Esculapius. The scene is the garden-court of a Doric palace or temple, with ancient emblems of the healing art over the portal; a plashing fountain in the centre, embowered with vines, solemn cedars, and cypresses. Here, seated on a throne, the god of medicine and surgery prescribes for the bramble-pricked foot of the goddess of beauty, who is attended by three Graces. True classic fancy and feeling pervade this admirable design; the accessories are most appropriate; even the nimbus which surrounds the head of each deity has classical warranty, and the nude figures (though one might object to the types chosen) afford the opportunity for a display of excellent drawing and modelling. Mr. Poynter is less successful in some home landscape studies. Of the small portraits which this artist has formerly exhibited, there is no sample from his own pencil, but he has obviously set a fashion in this gallery. From among the works of several followers we should specially commend, as worthy of Mr. Poynter himself, a portrait of a lady (542), with a background of blue china, unsurpassed for grace of character and refinement of execution, by Miss Edith Martineau—the same rising lady-artist whose study of a classic head in profile we engraved last year. Very similar, alike in size, delicate perception of character, quiet harmony of colour, and subordination of background ornaments seldom introduced, because too apt to "come forward," are the child portraits by Mr. J. C. Moore. The little musician, "Winifred Holiday" (198), tuning her violin, is particularly charming; and equally meritorious in its way is the little son of Mr. Norman Shaw (183), seated in a chair, pretending to hold a coachman's whip and reins. The life-size bust portraits by Mr. E. Clifford are at least equal in power; "The Lady Ida Benmet" (189) has, too, a graceful expressiveness which recalls Sir Joshua Reynolds.

As few other works group so naturally as the preceding, and complete classification would be impossible, we shall now follow the order of the drawings on the walls, diverging only in order to include the contributions of a given artist. But we have space only to notice the more prominent works, and in most cases bare mention must suffice. No. 11, "Deserted," an old feudal castle, appropriate in sentiment, by Harry Goodwin. "A Winter Sunset on the Tiber" (20), by C. R. Aston; this and No. 58 seem to us to mark an advance. "Court-yard of a Palace, Venice" (29), by T. R. Macquoid. "Old Shoreham" (30), by C. E. Holloway. "From the Campanile of Torcello" (31), an extensive panoramic view, embracing the heads of the lagoon, with Venice in the extreme distance—a drawing full of promise in its painstaking fidelity, by H. Darvall. "Wargrave Church" (44), one of several drawings evincing close and careful observation, by F. G. Cotman. No. 50, a spring landscape, by Frank Walton. "The course of true love never did run smooth" (51), by John Scott, one of the few figure subjects here treated with fair ability. "Silk Winding on the Lake of Como" (59), by C. Earle. "San Pietro, Venice" (67), and others by H. Pilcau. "Bosinney Hone, Cornwall" (69), by J. L. Roget. "The Dead and Dying" (79), an autumnal landscape, with a felled elm lying in a shallow pool, effectively painted by A. Parsons. "In Florence" (80), with, in the foreground, the group of Hercules subduing Cacus, by Baccio Bandinelli, which stands before the Palazzo Vecchio—a striking drawing by F. J. Skell. "The Morning Meal" (91), a girl feeding a thrush, by A. E. Fisher. "A Morass" (93), by Joseph Knight, is a large drawing, remarkable for breadth and extraordinary depth of tone in the lowering gloom which broods over the dreary waste. Other contributions by this artist leave, however, the impression that he relies so much on successful manipulation of a limited range of effect as to suggest mannerism. "Exiled" (94), by R. Farren—a Highland landscape, with a small tribe trudging along—seems to deserve a better place. "Landscape with Cattle, Normandy" (101), by Mark Fisher, evinces foreign training. "The Maid and the Magpie" (109), by A. C. H. Luxmore, is modest and pleasing. "Catching Sprats" (124) and "Wind off Shore" (249), by Hamilton Macallum, are two large drawings with cold daylight playing on the wavelets of a Scotch loch, after the fashion which north-country painters are fond of repeating; there is power here, but power that requires some discipline and restraint. "The Italian Baths, Pompeii" (148), by F. W. Topham, is a modification of a picture exhibited at the New British Institution. "Chamber in the Prison of the Old Spanish Inquisition, Antwerp" (149), by S. Read, is an interesting and good example of this popular member of the Old Water-Colour Society. "On the Tyne" (162), by T. M. Hemy—see also "The Trawlers: Morning" (368), by the same artist. "Hall-storm, at Venice, June, 1872" (168), by Mr. A. Severn, is a forcible, but surely an exaggerated representation; yet no artist could be more conscientious than is Mr. Severn in his large view of old Chayne Walk, Chelsea, as it existed before the Embankment (330). "Low Tide" (177), by Tom Lloyd, is a marked advance.

We have now reached an original and striking drawing by Mr. Heywood Hardy, which worthily occupies a post of honour at the end of the room. "Camp Followers" (190) is the sig-

nificant title for a row of gaunt hungry black vultures perched on a rocky cliff overlooking a valley, where the camp-fires of an army suggest the impending carnage upon which these foul, ill-omened birds of prey will gorge, and which even now they seem to anticipate. "On the Thames" (205), by J. Parker. "On the Wrong Side" (213)—indicative of a lovers' quarrel, by C. T. Lidderdale. "The Mill at Somersed, Lower Egypt" (224), by W. P. Burton. No. 231, an artistically-rendered twilight effect on a moor, by Albert Goodwin. "Looking Out to Sea" (240), by J. O. Long. "Palm Trees near the Nile" (255), by W. Severn. "Fatima" (256), by C. Bellay. "The Harem of a Wealthy Arab, Cairo" (272), by Frank Dillon. "Bringing Sheep from the Fell-Stye-Head Pass" (281), by J. J. Richardson. "Calm—Mediterranean" (303), one of Henry Moore's admirable studies of the sea, and one unusually beautiful in colour. "The Offering—Normandy" (305), by W. J. Hennessy—a mother and child at a shrine: very nice in sentiment. "The Inn Door" (310), with a group of dismounted cavalry soldiers by J. D. Watson. "Right and Left—Ballachulish" (331)—the vale so called, with a sportsman in the middle distance blazing away his right and left barrels: an able drawing by A. C. Stannus. "Off Duty" (336)—a sister of mercy returning through the snow with an empty basket, by G. Pope. "A Buckinghamshire Mill" (347), by C. J. Lewis. "Loch Awe" (348), by Tristram J. Ellis: a little crude and photographic, but full of promise, notwithstanding. "Three Black Vultures" (405), by this artist, is a curious repetition in part of Heywood Hardy's subject, though quite different and original in motive. "An Irish Weaver" (358), by Arthur Stocks, is a forcibly-painted interior. "Bored!" (366), by Percy Macquoid, a humorous little drawing of a King Charles spaniel turning up his pug nose over a friendly Persian cat. "Sunny Hours" (381), children on a cliff, by E. Waterlow. No. 382, a sunset effect with a couplet for title, by W. Ward. "Pluto's Garden" (422) and "The Earth and Spring" (456), by Walter Crane, two of the few remaining samples of that eccentrically archaic treatment of classical mediæval and Oriental themes which was once so largely illustrated in this gallery. "Music" (437), by Henry Holiday. "The Rescue" (502), by V. Cabianca, is interesting as almost the sole work by a foreign artist: the colouring has a beautiful mellow harmony, quite free from vulgarity. "A Highland Girl" (572) and "Winter" (602), by Townley Green. A small drawing (585), by Alfred E. Emslie, of an old negro playing the violin to his little one, whom he has fixed before him on a tall chair, is intensely droll, yet pathetic withal. An engraving of it is given. We find we have still left unmentioned drawings of merit by Louise Rayner, G. L. Hall, J. J. Bannatyne, J. J. Curnock, G. F. Glennie, A. Hill, J. H. Leonard, Walter Stocks, A. B. Donaldson, J. Aumonier, Walter Field, H. Hine, H. Anclay, A. W. Weedon, A. Duncan, Leonard Lewis, E. Tayler, and H. Sandcock, together with still-life subjects by Miss H. C. Coleman, Mrs. Guerin, and others.

MUSIC.

The lamented death of Sir William Sterndale Bennett, on Monday week, and his funeral in Westminster Abbey on the following Saturday, cast a gloom over London music which has scarcely yet subsided. Special reference to these events is made in other portions of this Paper.

Herr Joachim's first appearance this season was the important feature at last Saturday's Crystal Palace concert, his performances at which consisted of the recitative and adagio, and the opening allegro, of Spohr's sixth violin concerto (in G minor), a work replete with the beauty and power that pervade most of his many other productions of the kind—all of them being especially admirable as vehicles for the display of the characteristics of the solo instrument, for their mastery of form and treatment, and the richly-scored orchestral accompaniments. The extracts referred to were given on Saturday with that grandeur of tone and style and fluency of execution to which we have long been accustomed at the hands of Herr Joachim, whose other performance on the occasion referred to was in a nocturno of his own composition, for solo violin, with accompaniment of a modified orchestra, consisting only of violas, violoncelli, basses, oboes, and horns. The piece (which was given for the first time in England) received every advantage from the fine performance by its composer. The solo portions were well contrasted by the varied effects of the orchestral writing, and the nocturno was so well received that we shall doubtless soon have to speak of it on a second hearing. Another novelty in this country was Bach's suite for orchestra in C major—the only one of three such works that had not hitherto been heard in England. It (like the other two) consists of a series of movements, all in dance form except the opening portion, which is in the style of the old overture—that is, a slow introduction followed by a fugue. These "suites," with their combination of learned writing and quaint beauty, are among the many instances of the wonderful variety of Bach's powers. The suite in C, with which the concert began, and Beethoven's fourth symphony (in B flat), which closed the programme, were admirably played by the orchestra, under Mr. Manns's direction. Weber's fine scena "Was sag ich" (written for interpolation in a German performance of Cherubini's "Lodoiska") was effectively declaimed by Miss Sophie Löwe, who also gave songs by Schubert and the late Sterndale Bennett; other vocal pieces having been contributed by Mr. Henry Guy. Some tributary verses to the memory of Bennett were appended to the programme, together with the promise that one of the forthcoming Saturday concerts shall be appropriated to a selection from the works of the deceased composer. The programme for this (Saturday) afternoon comprises an orchestral suite by Lachner (for the first time in England) and Moscheles's piano-forte concerto in G minor, to be played Dr. Hans von Bülow.

The concert given by the Sacred Harmonic Society yesterday (Friday) week was of great variety and interest. It opened with one of the many masses composed by Mozart during his early career at Salzburg, and when under the dominion of the Archbishop, whose tastes were rather for the meretricious than the sublime style of church music. Accordingly, most of the sacred compositions belonging to that phase of Mozart's life are coloured by this influence. Nothing, however, could suppress the genius and power of the master, and accordingly these are evident even in the lightest of his masses—that in C, perhaps, being among the best of them. Brightness and vivacity in the jubilant movements, exquisite melody and tenderness in those of a more serious character, are alternately pervading features of the work, which was given for the first time by the society on the occasion referred to. Spohr's "Christian's Prayer" (an English adaptation of his "Vater Unser") followed the mass. The cantata had only been once given by the society many years previously, but has been commented on by us in reference to its more recent performances elsewhere. Again, on this last occasion, its refined and graceful melody and rich harmonic treatment exercised high charm, although scarcely awaking the profounder religious sentiments. The solo portions of the cantata and the mass were efficiently sung by Misses Edith Wynne and Julia Elton; Mr. Guy and Mr. Theodore Distin. Mendelssohn's noble music to

"Athalie" formed a splendid climax to the concert. The solo music in this was well rendered by Misses Wynne, Horne, and Elton; and the illustrative verses were judiciously declaimed by Mr. Ryder. The orchestral and choral effects throughout the evening were realised with that grandeur and power which are special features at these concerts. Sir M. Costa presided, as usual, at the conductor's desk; and Mr. Willing occupied his customary place at the organ.—Mr. G. A. Macfarren's "St. John the Baptist" is to be given at the next concert, on Feb. 26.

At this week's Monday Popular Concert Herr Joachim was again heard—his performance on this occasion having been in the leading violin part of Schubert's great string quartet in D minor, in that of Schumann's pianoforte quintet in E flat, and in three movements from the sonatas by Bach for violin alone. In all these instances the great violinist displayed his powers, intellectual and mechanical, to admiration. Mr. Franklin Taylor was the pianist of the evening—his solo having been the eighteenth of Beethoven's sonatas (that in E flat, from op. 29), which he played with fine qualities of touch and style; these having been again specially manifested in the quintet already referred to. Mr. L. Ries, Herr Straus, and Signor Piatti were the other instrumentalists in the concerted music. Two vocal pieces were effectively given by Miss Enriquez, with Mr. Zerbini as accompanist. At next Monday's concert the first part of the programme will be appropriated to music by the late Sir Sterndale Bennett.

"The Messiah" was given at the Albert Hall on Wednesday. This (Saturday) evening there is again to be a popular ballad concert, the third grand orchestral concert of the series being announced for Tuesday next.

The London Ballad Concerts have been pursuing a successful career, and are now approaching the termination of their ninth series. Ash Wednesday having occurred this week, the performances were suspended, to be resumed next Wednesday evening, when the last concert but one will take place.

The first of the new series of the British Orchestral Society's concerts, on March 10, is to consist entirely of works by the composer just named.

Mr. Kuhe's Brighton festival opened well on Tuesday evening, when the programme comprised the overtures to "Fidelio" and "Les Danaïdes de la Couronne" and Haydn's first "Salomon" symphony (in C), played by the fine orchestra engaged (chiefly consisting of some of the best London instrumentalists). Mendelssohn's violin concerto was brilliantly executed by M. Sauton, and Mr. Kuhe displayed his well-known powers as a pianist in Weber's "Concert-stück." Other pieces, including vocal solos by Miss Edith Wynne, completed an interesting selection—a tribute having been paid during the evening to the memory of Sir Sterndale Bennett by the performance of Chopin's Funeral March. Mr. Kuhe and Mr. Kingsbury alternately acted as conductors. Bach's "Passion Music" was announced for Thursday evening, a classical miscellaneous concert for yesterday (Friday) morning; the week's proceedings closing to-day (Saturday) with Sir M. Costa's "Naaman," conducted by himself.

The preparations for the Edinburgh Musical Festival, under the direction of Dr. H. S. Oakley, the Reid Professor of Music at the University, are now completed, and the performances are to begin to-day (Saturday). On the first day there will be an orchestral concert, with a programme chiefly derived from German masters. The instrumental items include Mozart's symphony in D, Beethoven's concerto in C minor with Mr. Charles Hallé as pianist, Weber's overture to "Der Freischütz," Volkmann's overture to "Richard III.," Wagner's overture to "Rienzi," Bach's Praeludium, air, Passepied and Gigue in G (with Mr. Hallé again at the pianoforte); and two modern orchestral pieces—"Abend," by Ruff, and "Liebeslied," from Tannhäuser's "Tempst." The second performance will be the annual "Reid Concert," given in accordance with the provisions of the will of the General, who so munificently endowed the music chair that it ranks in emolument far above the musical professorships at the English Universities. According to custom, the first piece in the programme will be the "Introduction, pastorale, minuet, and march," composed by General Reid, and always played on these occasions in honour of his memory. The scheme in other respects, like that of the first concert, is mostly German. The symphony will be Beethoven's No. 2, in D, the concerto, Viotti's for the violin, will be heard to the first time in Scotland with Madame Norman-Néruda as the soloist; and the overtures will be Mendelssohn's "Athalie," Gade's "Hamlet," and Beethoven's first of the "Leonora" set, the two last named being given for the first time north of the Tweed. Another orchestral novelty will be Brahms's Hungarian dances in F minor and G minor. The programme of the third and last concert of the festival will include Schubert's symphony No. 9, in C major. The overtures are to be Cherubini's "Medea," Spontini's "Vestale," and Schumann's "Genoveva." At this concert there will be works for both pianoforte and violin—Mr. C. Hallé is to play Mendelssohn's rondo brillante in E flat, and Madame Norman-Néruda Vieuxtemps's ballade and polonaise in G. Liszt's orchestral pieces, "Les Préludes," will also be given. The vocalists at the three concerts will be Miss Edith Wynne and Mr. Edward Lloyd. The orchestra of seventy performers will be led by Mr. C. Seymour and Herr Straus, and the concerts will be conducted by Mr. C. Hallé.

The members of the band of the Liverpool Philharmonic Society, on Tuesday, presented Sir Julius Benedict with a handsomely-mounted silver inkstand on the occasion of his attaining his seventieth birthday.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has notified to Mr. W. H. Longhurst, organist of Canterbury Cathedral, his intention of conferring upon him the degree of Doctor of Music.

THEATRES.

The practice of reviving the original dramas of modern authors continues; and, at the Princess's on Saturday Mr. H. J. Byron's drama of "The Lancashire Lass" was reproduced, with increased success. The stage of the Oxford-street theatre is much larger than the Queen's, where this excellent drama was first produced, and admits of more scenic ornamentation than that permitted. The play itself has the advantage of a more substantial plot than Mr. Byron's more recent productions. The cast on the present occasion is recommended by considerable novelty; but Mr. Emery is still retained as "the party by the name of Johnson," whose intervention has so material a bearing on the dénouement. The other characters are all adequately represented. Ruth Kirby, the Lancashire lass, is admirably represented by Miss Lydia Foote; and Mrs. Alfred Mellon was powerful as Kate Garstone, and in the later scenes truly pathetic. Mr. J. G. Shore, as the merchant Danville, fully realised the character; nor may we say less of Mr. J. B. Howard as Robert Redburn, and of Mr. W. Terris in Ned Clayton, the engineer. Mr. George Behmore, as young Spotty, was lively and effective. Nor must we forget Miss Alma Murray, who, as the merchant's daughter, not only looked pretty, but acted with skill. The play loses nothing

by the new cast; and will retain its position on the boards for a considerable time.

There has been also a morning performance at the Princess's, when "The Hunchback" was performed on Saturday to a crowded house. Julia was acted by a Miss Alleyne, who promises to make her mark, and Helen by Miss Erskine, who deserved the recalls which she obtained. Mr. Ryder, as Master Walter, is too well known to need critical remark, and Mr. Terriss as Sir Thomas Clifford was remarkably effective. Mr. A. Nelson as Modus was especially successful. Another morning performance took place at the Gaiety, when "As You Like It" met with peculiar approbation from a crowded audience. Mrs. Kendal was the Rosalind, and Mr. Kendal the Orlando. Mr. Hermann Vezin was especially good in Jacques, and Mr. Maclean was excellent in Adam. Mr. J. G. Taylor was the Touchstone. Altogether the performance was first rate, and justified the reception which it obtained.

On Thursday "Uncle Tom's Cabin" was revived at the Adelphi, and will receive early notice.

The entertainments at Sanger's National Amphitheatre (late Astley's) continue to draw crowded houses. There are two performances daily.

Bullock's Royal Marionettes, which proved so popular at St. James's Hall and the Crystal Palace, are now performing at Westbourne Hall, Westbourne-grove.

ROYAL INSTITUTION LECTURES.

FRICTIONAL ELECTRICITY.

Professor Tyndall, LL.D., F.R.S., on Thursday week began a course of seven lectures on Electricity by stating that he proposed to illustrate the history of that science by a series of the most simple experiments, in which he would employ the very means used by original investigators, and which could be easily imitated by his hearers. After remarking that the ancients observed that amber (elektron), when rubbed, attracted light bodies, and Thales imagined the amber to be animated by a kind of life, he stated that Dr. Gilbert (1600) proved other bodies (such as fossils, gems, glass, and resins) to possess the same power as amber. The great Robert Boyle, in 1675, proceeded still further by showing that rubbed amber, when suspended, is in turn attracted by other bodies; and he also observed the light of electricity through the emission of light by a diamond when rubbed in the dark. Otto von Guericke, his contemporary, constructed the first electric machine—a ball of sulphur, about the size of a child's head, which, when turned with a handle and rubbed by the hand, emitted light in the dark. He also observed the attraction of a feather towards his sulphur globe, and its subsequent repulsion, till, having touched another body, it was again attracted. He noticed, moreover, the lighting of the so-called "electric fire," and that a body brought near his excited sphere became electrical, and was attracted by a body brought near it. Sir Isaac Newton, by rubbing a flat glass, caused light bodies to dance between it and a table; and the members of the Florentine Accademia del Cimento proved liquids also to be sensible to electric attraction. When rubbed amber was brought over a liquid an eminence rose on its surface. The electric light in vacuo was first observed by Picard in 1675, in the tube of a barometer. The same phenomenon was also noticed by Sebastian and Cassini, and John Bernoulli formed a "mercurial phosphorus" by shaking mercury in an exhausted tube. Hauksbee observed the light in vacuo caused by the approach of an electrified body to an exhausted glass globe, and remarked on the colour of the light. Great advances in the science were due to the celebrated experiments of Stephen Gray, a pensioner in the Charter House, London. To him we owe our first knowledge of electric conduction and insulation. He discovered that the cork stopping a rubbed glass tube attracted light bodies; that a long fir stick, stuck in the cork, did so also; and then, through the thread from the top window of a house, he attracted light bodies at the bottom. He also discovered that silk does not conduct electricity—i.e., that it is an insulator. Gray, even when dying, dictated an account of his last researches. To Du Fay we owe the important discovery that there are two kinds of electricity—named resinous (that obtained from rubbed resin) and vitreous (that produced by rubbed glass); and he proved each of them to be self-repulsive while attractive of the other. Gray first obtained attraction through a living body, and Du Fay obtained the first spark from it. Professor Tyndall's comments on the importance of these successive discoveries were amply elucidated by instructive experiments.

PHYSIOLOGICAL ACTION OF LIGHT.

Mr. James Dewar, F.R.S.E., at the Friday evening meeting, on the 5th inst., gave an illustrated account of the researches of Dr. M'Kendrick and himself in relation to the question of Sir Henry Holland, the late president of the Royal Institution, in his "Essay on the Progress of Physical Science"—"What is the condition of light—be it conceived as matter, or motion, or force—when arrested and enmeshed in a living organism?" Numerous hypotheses have been put forth, without any experimental foundation; for example, Newton, Melloni, and Seebeck stated that the action of light on the retina consisted of a communication of mere vibrations; Young conjectured it to be a minute intermittent motion of some part of the optic nerve; Du Bois-Reymond attributed it to an electrical effect; Draper supposed it to depend on a heating effect of the choroid; and Moser compared it to the action of light on a sensitive photographic plate. Mr. Dewar began his experiments by showing how Mr. Justice Grove first demonstrated the action of light on the electro-motive force in a very elegant manner. It is evident that, in accordance with the transference of energy, the action of light on the retina must produce an equivalent result, which may be expressed—as heat, chemical action, or electro-motive power; that the electro-motive force of a piece of muscle is diminished when it is forced to contract, and that similarly a nerve suffers a diminution of its normal electro-motive force during action. In the same manner the amount and variations of the electro-motive power of the optic nerve, affected secondarily by the action of light on the retina, are physical expressions of certain changes produced in the latter. These considerations induced Mr. Dewar and Dr. M'Kendrick to undertake a series of very careful and refined experiments, to ascertain the effect, if any, of the action of light on the electro-motive force of the optic nerve, by means of the most delicate apparatus they could obtain, employing the eyes of a great variety of animals. They soon found that the action of light on the retina alters the amount of the electro-motive force to the extent of from 3 to 7 per cent of the total amount of the natural current, and that a mere flash of light and a small light held at a distance of four or five feet produced sensible effects. Their registered and tabulated results have proved—1. That the impact of light on the eyes of members of the following groups of animals—viz., mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibia, fishes, and crustacea—produces a variation amounting to from 3 to 10 per cent of the normal electro-motive force existing between the corneal surface and the transverse section of the nerve. 2. That this electrical alteration may be traced to the brain.

3. That of coloured rays those which we regard as most luminous produce the largest variation. 4. That the alteration of the electrical effect with varying luminous intensity seems to follow very closely the ratios given by the psycho-physical law of Fechner. 5. That the electric alteration is due to the action of light on the retinal structure itself, as it is independent of the anterior portion of the eye; eliminating, therefore, the natural supposition that the contraction of the iris might produce a similar result. 6. That it is possible, by experiment, to discover the physical expression of what is called, in physiological language, "fatigue." And 7. That the method employed in these researches may be applied to the investigation of the special organs of the other senses. These results were fully illustrated during the lecture by means of the light of the electric lamp, gas-jets, and candles projected upon the eyes of frogs, the effects being made strikingly visible through the movements of a very delicate galvanometer. Dr. Warren De la Rue, F.R.S., vice-president, was in the chair.

DISCOVERIES AT EPHESUS.

Mr. J. T. Wood, on Saturday last, continued his narrative of the results of the Government Excavations at Ephesus, illustrated by maps, drawings, and magnified photographs, exhibited on the screen by the lantern. He began the exploration of the Odeum, or Lyric Theatre, by means of the grant from the trustees of the British Museum. He found his way into the theatre through the central doorway, and on clearing the pulpitum, or stage, discovered on the pavement many small fragments of marble, found to contain Greek inscriptions, three of which were letters from the Emperor Antoninus Pius—two dated A.D. 145, one dated 150. In these is mentioned Publius Vadius Antoninus, under whose auspices the Odeum and other public buildings were erected. These letters, and one from the Emperor Hadrian, were addressed to the people of Ephesus. In the Odeum were also found statues of Erato and Lucius Verus. This theatre was 153 ft. in diameter, and could seat 2300 persons. Near it Mr. Wood found remains of a tomb, which he believed to be that of St. Luke, apparently a circular building 50 ft. in diameter, standing in a quadrangle 150 ft. across, surrounded by a colonnade. Among the buildings near was the woolfactors' hall, or market, somewhat resembling our Royal Exchange. In February, 1866, the exploration of the great theatre began. It was one of the largest in Asia Minor, being 495 ft. in diameter, and capable of seating 21,500 persons—equal to about three Albert Halls. In it were found many interesting Greek and a few Latin inscriptions, chiefly decrees of the Senate and people, and also some sculpture. Here was also found the great Salutarian inscription—decrees relating to gold and silver images voted to Diana by C. Vibius Salutaris, which on certain days were carried in procession from the temple to the theatre and back again. Mr. Wood referred to the uproar in this theatre occasioned by Demetrius, the silversmith, in opposition to St. Paul's preaching (Acts xix.); and he suggested that the statue which was said to have fallen down from Jupiter might have been a large aerolite, carved by a sculptor. Early in 1868 H.M.S. Terrible conveyed from Smyrna to England, for the British Museum, twenty-seven cases of antiquities from Ephesus. The long Salutarian inscription gave Mr. Wood the clue he was seeking, as it mentioned the Magnesian and Coressian gates. Having discovered these, he followed the roads outside till they bifurcated, selecting those roads which were deeply worn with ruts. For at least 300 yards the average depth of that leading from the Magnesian gate was twelve feet below the present surface. In May, 1868, Mr. Wood left for England, his funds being exhausted and the weather too hot to work. His narrative will be continued this day (Saturday).

DEVELOPMENT OF ANIMALS.

Mr. E. Ray Lankester, in his fifth lecture on the Pedigree of the Animal Kingdom, on Tuesday last, proceeded to show how certain of the great groups of animals may have been developed from a wormlike ancestor, which he termed archiscolax. The starfishes exhibit larvæ, which, like the veliger of the mollusc and annelid, and the adult rotifer, are reducible to this type; but the jointed, ringed, or annulate worms present a feature which seems to separate them from this ancestral form: this is segmentation, or linear budding. These worms produce new individuals in a line by growth, and so form compound animals. After pointing out, by reference to diagrams, how the annelidan worms exhibit developments of the simple archiscolax form—two kinds of outgrowths of the wall of the body—viz., gills and legs—Mr. Lankester said that not only the most complex of the annelids, but also the insects and the vertebrates, must have been constituted in the same way—being compound segmented animals, which have lost a great deal of their original distinctness by continual adaptation. Thus, in an insect, the individual rings are not equal, but are fused; some of the segments are short, and others long, and some act as jaws and others as legs. As another mode of adaptation, brought about by natural selection, the great group of the mollusca was next considered—creatures which, it was said, are not built up from a series of simple worms, but are really an improvement and development of single unsegmented individuals like the archiscolax. From this group Mr. Lankester selected the common water-snail as an example; commenting on every stage of its development from the egg, and especially noticing the enlargement of the lower lip till it becomes what is termed the foot. He then showed how in the pteropods or sea-butterflies the enlargement of the foot stunts the growth of the head; how, in the cuttle-fish, the head is thus eventually quite obliterated; and how, in the moss polyps, the great tentacles or gills are also formed at the expense of the head. Reference was then made to the internal calcareous shield or pen beneath the skin of the cuttle-fish, to the existence of a shell gland in other molluscs, and to its development into a habitation in others. The lecture was concluded by a summary of the facts which lead to the supposition that the archiscolax gave rise to a long-lost group of ancestral molluscs from which the living representatives of the class sprang.

Professor Frankland will give a discourse on River Pollution at the next evening meeting, Feb. 19.

The following notice has been issued by command of the Postmaster-General:—"The public would greatly assist the operations of the Post Office if they would be good enough to post their letters, valentines, &c., intended for dispatch from London on St. Valentine's Eve, Feb. 13, earlier in the day than usual."

Judgment has been given by the Railway Commissioners on the dispute between the Midland and Great Western Companies, arising out of the charges made by the former, as they affect both lines. The Court has decided that the equal rate for the first class between London and Birmingham should be the amount at 1½d. a mile of the Midland mileage besides duty; that the first-class rate between Gloucester and Cheltenham, Birmingham and Bristol, Birmingham and Gloucester, Birmingham and Worcester, should also be 1½d., and that between Bristol and Bath it should remain at 2d. No order was made as to costs.

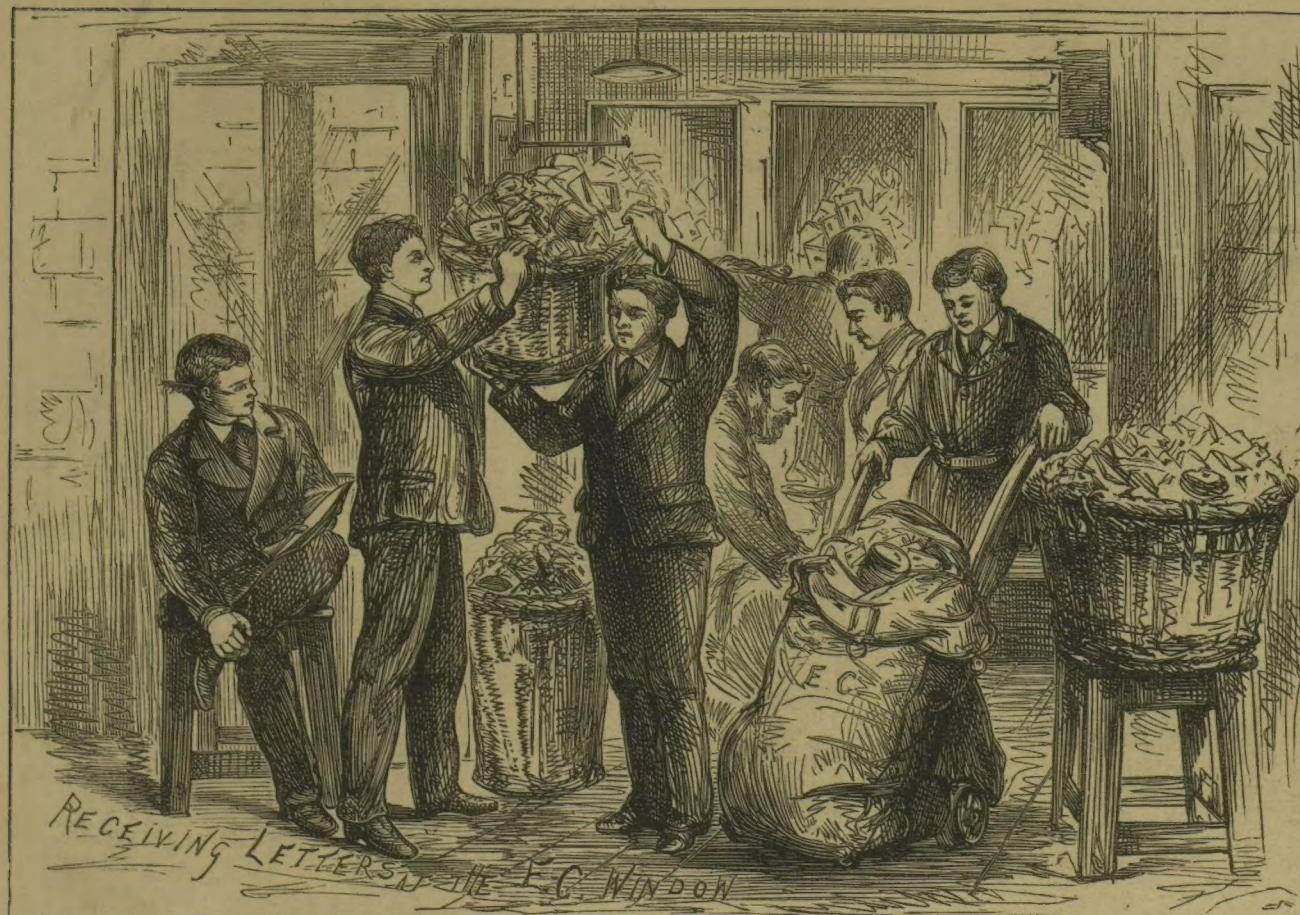


SKETCHES AT THE GENERAL POST-OFFICE: STAMPING AND SORTING LETTERS.



THE EXECUTION OF SIR THOMAS MORE.

FROM THE PICTURE BY W. P. YEAMES, A.R.A.



THE GENERAL POST OFFICE.

We have in several Numbers of this Journal shortly before Christmas, given a series of Illustrations, with a minute description, of the New Central Postal Telegraph Office at St. Martin's-le-Grand. We proceed now to do likewise with the General Post Office, which occupies the older building opposite to that before mentioned. This building is familiar outside to everybody in London. It was erected between 1825 and 1829, when the office was removed from Lombard-street. The long front, extending 400 ft., has three porticoes of Grecian architecture, the middle one of six Ionic columns, the two end porticoes each of four columns. Until lately there was free access to a grand public hall, 80 ft. long and 60 ft. wide, in the interior of which, at the different sides, were the offices for posting letters and newspapers, and the local post-office for London. This hall is now closed, and people must drop their letters into the large receptacle at the main "window" under the middle portico in front of the building, or into one of two smaller "windows" at the back and another side. But the great business here, besides the distribution of London letters and the reception of those posted here, is the reception of mail-bags from various parts of the United Kingdom and foreign countries, and from the eight district offices in London, and the dispatch of those made up at this central office for their respective destinations.

From the last published Report of the Postmaster-General, it appears that the total number of letters delivered in the United Kingdom during the year 1873 was no less than 907 millions; of book-packets, 129 millions; of newspapers, 125 millions; and 72 millions of post cards. Only a certain portion of these go through the Chief Office at St. Martin's-le-Grand. It comprises so much of the inland correspondence as does not fall within points of collection and delivery much nearer to each other than to London, and so much of the London district correspondence as is not disposed of at the several district offices, each of which is a separate centre for collection and delivery. The mails from and to places out of England are, of course, dealt with at this Chief Office. It is of the provincial and the colonial and foreign mails that we intend here to speak, with reference to our Artist's Sketches of the bustling scenes at this great national establishment. Let us, however, before commencing the description, thank Mr. Tilley, the Secretary, for his permission to make these sketches; and Mr. Leal and Mr. Fisher, Superintendents of the Inland Branch, Mr. R. F. Pitt, of the Foreign Branch, and other gentlemen, for their kind assistance. We were guided over the building by Mr. Chappell.

There are nearly 600 post towns in England and Wales, having from one to eight mails daily between them and London. For instance, mails are made up for Birmingham at 5 a.m., at 6.15, at 7.45, at 11, at 1.41 p.m., at 6 p.m., and at 10.45 p.m., and on Saturday also at 10 p.m. Brighton likewise has eight mails in the day; and it is a fact, though few persons would be prepared to believe it, that London sends rather more letters to Brighton than to Birmingham, sometimes as many or more than to Manchester or Liverpool. The round numbers for one day at this season, which is not the Brighton season, were 14,000 to Liverpool, 15,000 to Manchester, 13,000 to Brighton, and 12,500 to Birmingham. Some towns, as Croydon and Kingston, of no great importance, but within the suburban district, have five or six mails, while Newcastle has but three, and Bristol four; but the majority have two or three, at least, both to and from London. Exact particulars of these, with the hours of posting for every mail, may be found in a list contained in the quarterly official publication of *The British Postal Guide*.

The provincial mail-bags arriving in London are brought in vans from the railway stations to the General Post Office, and are deposited in the "Inland Lobby," on the north side of this building. Here, too, are brought, in like manner, the bags of letters collected at the several London district offices, and those in official envelopes, "on her Majesty's service," free of postage. Above 1700 bags are received here in the course of the day from the provincial post towns and London district. Their arrival in the inland lobby is the subject of one of our Illustrations. Each bag is inscribed with the name of the place it comes from—as, "Edinburgh to London," or "Leeds" or "Huddersfield to London." A printed list of mails expected in London, with the hours at which they are due, is kept before one of the most patient and attentive of official gentlemen, who "ticks off" the arrival of each bag. If a bag fails to arrive when due, its non-arrival is speedily notified by a paper exhibited in the window of each London district office.

The posting of letters, newspapers, and packets, at the London Chief Office, which is also the chief E.C. or East Central District Office, takes place all day both at the main window under the front portico, and in the rear of the building, eastward, which is more convenient for merchants' clerks and others from the City. Preparations are made on the basement floor to receive all that are posted here. At the front window, under each of the four wide openings through which letters are tossed in, is a capacious open box, or rather tank, made of zinc, with a moveable false bottom of wicker. This false bottom is pulled aside, at intervals of a few minutes, when the box has become tolerably full, and the contents fall into a large basket underneath. The basket is then carried away, while the wicker bottom catches whatever is dropped into the box till its next turn for being emptied again. There is often a great rush during the last ten minutes or quarter of an hour before closing, as at 6 p.m. for the evening mails. It is amusing to stand inside, below the window, and to see the eager faces of boys and men thronging at the apertures, in haste to throw in their handfuls of postable matter. When the hour is passed, a screen or shutter is put up, and the letters cast in after that until 6.45 or 7.30 will not be forwarded the same evening without one or two extra stamps, on the "too late" footing. At the smaller window behind, that is to say, on the eastern or City side, letters and sample-packets are posted in great numbers towards the close of a business day. Our illustration shows the young attendants here removing the filled baskets and sacks, which must be done rather briskly. About twenty basketfuls and some fourteen sackfuls are received at this window between five and six o'clock in the afternoon. But the collection at the Lombard-street Office, also in the E.C. District, which closes ten minutes earlier than at St. Martin's-le-Grand, is even greater than at the Chief Office. Carts run from Lombard-street to the chief office with the letters and other things posted in the former at intervals of ten minutes after 4.30 p.m., and every five minutes after 5 p.m., till six o'clock. The boxes here for London district letters are cleared more than a dozen times in a day.

The correspondence of the different Government Offices is conveyed free of postal charge, amounting yearly to a weight of 13,000,000 ounces, the annual cost of which, if charged, would approach £100,000. The India Government Office alone pays its postages, at the rate of nearly £800 monthly. There is no personal privilege now of franking; even the Queen and the Prince of Wales pay for every letter they send. Letters in official envelopes, bearing the stamp of a Government office, are consigned to a room called "the pound," where they are weighed and entered in an account kept with that office.

The War Department has by far the largest correspondence, weighing 2,124,570 ounces yearly, and the Inland Revenue sends nearly 2,000,000 ounces, but part of it consists of book-parcels, which are charged with postage. The Admiralty, the Privy Council Office, the Local Government Board, the Customs, the Board of Trade, and the Home Office are considerably indebted to St. Martin's-le-Grand for unpaid services in the transaction of their business.

The operations of stamping, sorting, and arranging the multitudes of letters received, and then making up the bags for the dispatch of the outgoing mails should now be described. It is in the great central gallery, on the lower floor of the building, that the letters are stamped and sorted. But the first operation is that of "facing" them, which is merely putting them together with all their faces turned up, and with the written direction not upside down, but so as to be read at a glance. This simple work is quickly performed, at four large tables, by about a score of boys or young men standing at each table. It is represented in one of the sketches we have engraved. Any parcels or newspapers that may have been mixed with the letters, through being dropped into the wrong box, are taken away to their proper place. The letters, when their faces are properly set, go to the stamping-tables.

The stamping is twofold; it consists of the broad oval black mark, serving to obliterate or deface the stuck-on Queen's head postage-stamp, and of a circular black stamp, containing letters and figures to indicate the date, which may be read upon every envelope that has passed through the post. Both these stampings are done by one stroke with an instrument of compound action. The same method is in use at the District Offices. The date-stamp, for last Tuesday would bear the characters FE 9, with 75 below and 2 above (meaning Feb. 9, 1875, 2nd collection), with the name of the office. This is easily altered from day to day and hour to hour, by substituting one movable type for another. A similar stamp will be used at the delivering office, but with the actual date of delivery, which may perhaps be next day. The scene at the stamping-tables in the General Post Office is shown in our page Engraving. Each stamper has to count the letters passing through his hands, and to record their number by an impression of his date-stamp, once for every hundred letters, on a blank-form paper called his "tally," adding the hundreds together, with any odd number, when he has finished the stamping of a batch. The number of unpaid letters is distinguished, and a record is kept of the time occupied in stamping.

Sorting, in the Inland Branch of the General Post Office, consists of three successive operations—namely, first, the sorting for the different main lines of railway; secondly, for the different town roads, or groups of towns, along those railways, or reached by them; and thirdly, for the particular post towns in those groups. But, in the mails brought from provincial or London district centres of collection, the first sorting, or arrangement for the different main lines of railway, has already been done. The letters posted at the Chief Office, however, must here undergo all three stages of sorting.

Hundreds of careful sorters stand at long narrow tables, fronting a series of four or five shelves, one above the other, all within easy reach. The shelves are inscribed, at intervals of a few inches, or perhaps for a space of two or three feet, with the names of certain local divisions. These are, in the tables of the first sorting, either main railways, distinct parts of the kingdom, or important towns. The North-Western, Midland, Great Eastern, South-Eastern, South-Western, Great Western, Suburban and Home, and Foreign, occupy the bottom shelf. On the shelf next above, spaces are devoted to Ireland and Scotland, to Liverpool, Manchester, Birmingham, and Brighton. Above these is a shelf for Dublin, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Leeds, Hull, and Norwich. Higher yet, and so further removed from the sorter, stand Leicester, Nottingham, Derby, and other second-rate towns. There are no partitions between the spaces for different railways and towns; but each sorter's entire tier of shelves is partitioned from his neighbours. The heap of letters, with their faces rightly set and duly stamped, is put on the table; and the sorters have to put together, in their right place on the shelves, those which are addressed to the towns or neighbourhoods along each main railway line. The letters are reared erect, one against the other, resting on the back of the shelves, not piled one upon the top of another. They are continually taken away by the boys who walk among the tables, each with his basket, to collect all that belong to some one railway, or to some one great provincial centre. A portion of the mails on the railway will undergo its further sorting, for districts and towns, in the travelling post-office attached to the mail-train, during its journey through the night. But the remainder is sorted at the General Post Office into these local subdivisions. The group of towns, as was observed, is called a "Road." For example, "Carlisle Road" includes the towns of Kendal, Penrith, Windermere, Workington, and some others; and so with "Preston Road," and "Birkenhead Road," and "Stafford Road." Preceding these, however, are the four divisions of the London and North-Western Railway system. The third and last sorting process to be done at the General Post Office is the distribution of the letters belonging to a "Road" between the several post towns comprised in that Road. There are, by the last published Report, 594 post towns in England and Wales, each of which has a head office, and may have sub-offices dependent on it. The General Post Office Circulation Map shows what are their means of communication, whether by railway, mail-coach, mail-cart, horse-post, stage-coach, omnibus, or foot messenger. The list, with sub-offices, is given in the *British Postal Guide*.

A separate mail-bag, sealed, is sent to each postmaster in the country; and if there be any registered letters they go into a special green bag, with a different seal. He also gets a bill or invoice, apprising him of the registered letters or packages, and debiting him with any postages left unpaid, which he has to get paid on delivery. Before putting the letters into the bag for dispatch of the mails, they are neatly and firmly tied up in bundles for the postmasters. The work of sorting book and other packets and newspapers, and of arranging them for dispatch, is similar in principle to the mode of dealing with letters; but with some difference of manner, from their shape and size. All packets are weighed; and, if an additional charge is due for over weight, beyond the prepaid postage, it is written on the packet, the rate charged being double. Many of these packets are so badly made up, or with such improper contents, as to give much trouble. There is a table called "the hospital," where these cripples and abortive inclosures are repaired with needful surgery. We saw a valuable gold watch in a flimsy little pasteboard box, which had been loosely tied round with one bit of string. Neither money nor jewellery ought to be sent without registration; and where this is discovered the double registration fee is charged. Many are the stupid, dishonest, or mischievous tricks which people sometimes play in this department. A revolver loaded with ball cartridge was found in a packet not many days ago. Live snakes, leeches, beetles, and all manner of nasty and noxious insects, lucifer matches, samples of brandy and more dangerous liquids in glass phials, chemical agents of destruction, sweetmeats and fruits of a moist description,

sausages, fish, and even a roast fowl, have come into the Post Office. Packets, when sorted, are thrown into baskets above and under the table, arranged for the different mail-bags. On the top floor of the building, to which one may ascend by a steam-lift at different parts, is the stamping and sorting of newspapers carried on. These are stamped by hand, with red printer's ink. At a side table here, as at the hospital for packets, newspapers which have burst their covers are made up afresh if the address can be found. The bags of newspapers, when finally made up, are cast down long wooden shoots to the platform where the vans are waiting for their conveyance to the railway stations.

We must not omit to notice the famous "blind" department, where several learned and sagacious sorters discover the probable meaning of imperfect, illegible, and other unintelligible addresses upon letters. Sometimes only the name of an obscure hamlet, of a country house or farm, or of a street is there written, without parish, or town, or county. There is little difficulty, perhaps, with such an address as this, from an Irish discharged soldier—"To the Cornhill Commandant 6 Dragon Gards, Ireland or anywhere in This World." But others are very puzzling, and require the use of many local directories and gazetteers. A few of the most curious are preserved in a scrap-book or album. One letter, intended for Tim Somebody who lived in a garret, was adorned with the comic portrait of that gentleman in his nightcap, emerging from a window to separate a couple of squalling cats on the housetop.

The Suburban Division, which includes places beyond the metropolitan district, yet within twenty-five miles of St. Martin's-le-Grand, extending as far as Windsor, has its peculiar arrangements. The Foreign and Colonial Branch is managed by a separate staff. France takes about 10,000 letters from England daily, and sends us as many, exclusive of those on transit through France to or from Italy, Spain, India, and other countries abroad. The number sent to and from North Germany is about 6000. These foreign letters are sorted in London for the different foreign cities and towns where they are to go. An account is kept with the French or German Post Office, not reckoning the number of letters but the gross weight of those in each mail, at the charges stipulated by international treaty. Colonial, Indian, and American mails have their bags made up on certain days, the notification of which is displayed in every post-office.

In the twenty-four hours of day and night there are four periods of much work and bustle at the General Post Office, Inland Branch. These are, from 4.30 a.m. to 8.30 a.m., for the dispatch of the day mails; again, for certain duties at noon; then from 4.30 p.m. to 8 p.m., to get off the evening mails; and for sorting, till a quarter past midnight, letters posted for the early morning mails. The greatest press, however, is towards the evening dispatch at eight o'clock. After seven, when the sorting is done, the mail bags are made up, tied, and sealed, as is shown in our Illustration. Each bag has its destination, "London to Boston," or "London to Peterborough," inscribed outside. An assistant stands ready, with a seal and a piece of wax, near a jet of gas to melt the wax, and the knot is sealed in a moment when tied. The bags are put on trucks, and trundled off swiftly to the platform outside, which runs along the north side of the building, just above the vans standing in the yard. Every mail-bag of letters is examined by one of the two men who receive it in the van, and is duly ticked off in their list, as well as the newspaper bags rushing down the shoot from the top story. The laden vans are at last driven away to the railway stations; and, for an hour or two, in the General Post Office, there is a spell of comparative quiet.

The number of persons employed here in the Inland Branch alone was set down for us at 619 for letters, 493 for newspapers, including 147 auxiliary sorters, with 78 in the Foreign Branch, 88 in the Registered Letter Branch, and 619 belonging to the E.C. District Office. But in the whole establishment of the General Post Office, taking the London delivery, with its host of letter-carriers, as well as the Circulation Department, Inland, Foreign, and Colonial Branches, with the Central Telegraph Office and other services, there are 5000 persons employed at St. Martin's-le-Grand. In the Metropolitan Postal District, altogether, the aggregate staff of all the offices is 9500. It is 42,000 for the 12,500 post offices in the United Kingdom; of which 880 are head offices at the post towns all over England and Wales, Scotland and Ireland, constituting a well-organised and highly-efficient national service.

WESLEYAN METHODISM.

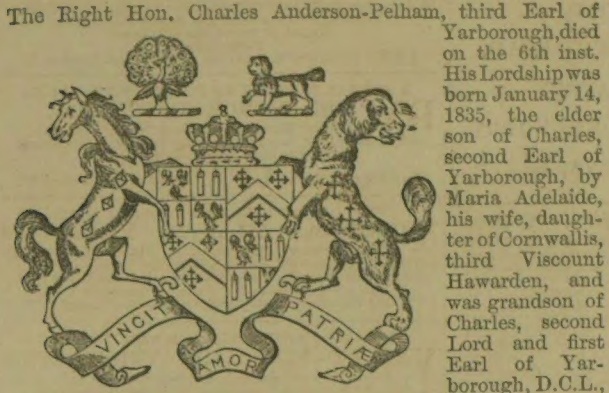
During the past year there was sanctioned the expenditure of the sum of £328,413 in the erection in this country of 130 chapels, thirty ministers' houses and schools, 186 enlargements and alterations of chapels, and a further sum of £9022 in the erection of forty new organs, being £60,943 more than in any previous year. The amount raised by voluntary contributions was £271,086, to supplement which grants from the chapel-fund committee amounted to £10,866, leaving £55,483 to be provided within a limited period. To the chapel fund a legacy last year amounted to £20,000. Several additional chapels, schools, and organs were also erected at the cost of private individuals. The number of sittings provided by new erections and enlargements last year is 22,745. During the past twenty years the entire outlay in this country in these erections and enlargements has been £3,236,053, and debts to the amount of £1,021,555 have also been liquidated. In the first decade 709 chapels were built, and in the second 1214. The total number of places of worship in Great Britain is 7485, and the number of sittings provided 1,723,495.

At a public meeting, convened by the Mayor of Hereford on Monday evening, it was resolved to invite the council of the Bath and West of England and Southern Counties Agricultural Association to hold their show, in 1876, at Hereford, the guarantee required being £800. The meeting pledged itself to raise £2000 to cover the required guarantee, and to offer local and special prizes, and place the city en fête during the show week. The proceedings were of an enthusiastic character.

Messrs. Moody and Sankey, the American revivalists, visited Birmingham yesterday week, to bid farewell to the converts they made during their fortnight's mission there. At the service held in Bingley Hall in the evening about 15,000 persons were present. Seats were railed off for those who had been converted, and all these were filled, admission to that part of the hall being by ticket. Mr. Moody addressed himself chiefly to the converts, and the service was concluded by a hymn of farewell sung by Mr. Sankey.—Messrs. Moody and Sankey, began a campaign in Liverpool on Sunday, in Victoria Hall, which has been built specially for them, and which will accommodate 8000 people. At the early service about 6000 persons were present, and at the afternoon and evening services the hall was crowded, while thousands of persons went away, being unable to obtain admission. The services are to be continued daily for a month, and subscriptions are being raised to meet the expenses, which will be very considerable, the building itself having cost over £3000. The services are free.

OBITUARY OF EMINENT PERSONS.

THE EARL OF YARBOROUGH.



The Right Hon. Charles Anderson-Pelham, third Earl of Yarborough, died on the 6th inst. His Lordship was born January 14, 1835, the elder son of Charles, second Earl of Yarborough, by Maria Adelaide, his wife, daughter of Cornwallis, third Viscount Hawarden, and was grandson of Charles, second Lord and first Earl of Yarborough, D.C.L., F.R.S., by Henrietta Anna Maria Charlotte, his wife, daughter of the Hon. John Bridgeman-Simpson, and heiress of her maternal uncle, Sir Richard Worsley, Bart. He sat in the House of Commons, being then Lord Worsley, for Great Grimsby from 1857 to 1862, when he succeeded, at the death of his father, to his peerage honours as well as to very extensive estates. He married, Aug. 3, 1858, Lady Victoria Alexandrina, fourth daughter of William, second Earl of Listowel, by whom he leaves four sons and two surviving daughters. The eldest son, Charles Alfred Worsley, now fourth Earl of Yarborough, was born June, 1859. The family was first raised to the Peerage in 1794, in the person of Charles Anderson-Pelham, of Brocklesby, in the county of Lincoln, who derived in the male line from Sir Edmund Anderson, Knight, the Lord Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas who sat in judgment on Mary Queen of Scots, and, by female descent, from Sir William Pelham, one of the most eminent military commanders of the reign of Elizabeth.

SIR J. H. FISHER.

Sir James Hurtle Fisher, who died on the 28th ult., at Adelaide, South Australia, in his eighty-fifth year, was the son of Mr. James Fisher, an architect, of London, and was for some years in practice as a solicitor there. Soon after the foundation of the colony he went out to Adelaide as a Commissioner of Lands, and was elected the first Mayor of the city of Adelaide. He was subsequently chosen a member of the Legislative Assembly, and became Speaker. In 1856, when the colony established a responsible Government, he took office as its first President. In 1860 he received the honour of knighthood by patent, in recognition of his services in the development of the prosperity of South Australia, and in 1865 retired from public life.

THE CHEVALIER DE GAJA.

Victor, M. A. R. de Marion de Gaja, General of Brigade in the French army, a veteran officer of the great Revolutionary war, died on the 31st ult., at East Hendred Rectory, Berkshire, aged eighty-seven. The son of a gentleman of Castel-Nanduoy, in Languedoc, he early entered the military service of his country, and took part in the War of the Peninsula of 1809, when he was made prisoner at Corunna, brought to England, and "interné" at Wantage—the village of Berkshire in the neighbourhood of which he died. Restored to his country by an exchange of prisoners, he went through the Russian campaign, and in the retreat after the fatal battle of Leipzig most brilliantly distinguished himself. When the war of 1870 broke out he left England immediately, at the age of eighty-three, to offer his services to his country, and he occupied himself in organizing ambulances for the sick and wounded at Pau and St. Jean de Luz. He married, Dec. 24, 1817, Matilda, eldest daughter of Lord Robert Fitzgerald, brother of William Robert, second Duke of Leinster, and of the ill-fated Lord Edward Fitzgerald.

MR. JEBB.

Samuel Henry Jebb, Esq., of Boston, in the county of Lincoln, died, on Sunday, in the seventy-ninth year of his age. Mr. Jebb was the second son of the late Joshua Jebb, Esq., of Walton, Derbyshire, by his wife, Dorothy, daughter of General Gladwin, of Stubbing Court, in the same county, and brother of the late Major-General Sir Joshua Jebb, K.C.B. He was descended from the Derbyshire branch of the ancient family of Jebb, formerly of Woodborough, Notts, several members of which stock were highly distinguished during the last century.

LIFE-BOAT SERVICES.

A meeting of the Royal National Life-Boat Institution was held on Thursday week at its house, John-street, Aldeph. Mr. Richard Lewis, the secretary, having read the minutes of the previous meeting, the silver medal of the institution and its thanks inscribed on vellum were voted to Mr. Stephen Pilcher, coxswain of the Tramore life-boat, in acknowledgment of his long and gallant services in the boat, particularly on the 3rd ult., when she was the means of rescuing the crew of seven men from the schooner Fanny, of Salcombe, wrecked in Tramore Bay. Rewards to the amount of £310 were granted to the crews of other life-boats of the institution for services performed by them during the recent stormy weather, when the boats had been the means, often under very perilous circumstances, of saving one hundred and six lives from different wrecks, besides assisting to save five vessels from destruction. Other rewards were granted to the crews of shore-boats for saving life from wrecks on our coasts, and payments to the amount of £1287 were ordered. Contributions to the society were announced, including £400 from the Misses T. and Kate Peach, being the amount realised by the sale of work contributed by Miss Peach; £6 5s. from the employés of the Oxford Gas Light and Coke Company; and £4 from the boys at Christ's Hospital, through the Rev. G. C. Bell, M.A. It was decided, on the application of the local residents, to take into connection with the institution the East Hartlepool life-boat establishments, and to undertake their renovation. Reports were read from the inspector and the assistant-inspectors of life-boats to the institution on their recent visits to the coast.

The Life-Boat "Charles Dibdin," lately presented by the Civil Service Life-Boat Fund to the institution, is to be placed, when completed, at Tynemouth in Northumberland, one of the most important stations on the English coast.

The Earl of Pembroke, the Under-Secretary of State for War, has sent a donation of £250 for the institution. His Lordship also sent £500 to the Shipwrecked Mariners' Society which relieved last year 10,028 persons.

Dr. Lyon Playfair's Commission of Inquiry respecting the Civil Service has made a report containing recommendations which involve considerable changes in the organisation of the Government departments.

CHESS.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

All communications relating to this department of the Paper should be addressed to the Editor, and have the word "Chess" written on the envelope.

S.R.M.—Accept our best thanks for the information.

A.C.P. H. Schleusner.—Problems received, with thanks.

W.M.M.—Black's third move was obviously a misprint for P to K 3rd.

L.J.N.D.—A problem of the kind submitted requires considerable examination. Besides, positions in five moves are "caviars to the general."

H. STEVENSON.—We should imagine that the whole story is a hoax.

J. RINPATH.—The "Knight's Tour" has been done to death.

P. SCOTT.—Thanks for the very pretty little game.

H. STEVENSON, P. G. LANTON, W. V. G. D. J. A. N. E. TITCHMARSH, M.A. (Oxon).—Apparently quite correct, though differing from the author's solution.

J. ST. T. CAMPBELL, and E. RYAN.—How do you propose to mate it, in answer to 1. Q to Q 3rd, Black play 1. Kt to Q 4th?

PICKWICK, EMILE F. and I. S. T.—There is no mate in two moves if Black play 1. B to Q 6th.

H. SCHLEUSNER.—The number of problems we have on hand must be our apology for our apparent neglect.

A. FITZ-RILEY.—To ensure a reply by the next week they ought to reach us by Saturday morning.

PROBLEM No. 1614.—Additional correct solutions received from J. E. M. F. V. V. G. D. St. A. H. STEVENSON, Polichinello, W. Finlayson, Bonn, T. B. Campbell, K. F. N. Banks.

PROBLEM No. 1615.—Correct solutions received from Latta, J. E. M. F. W. B. St. A. W. A. Bascoby, E. W. Fry, East Marden, M.A. (Oxon), Miss Jane D. H. Rice, H. Schleusner, Paul J. J. Allet Fitz-Riley, H. E. Raimbach.

••• A chessplayer would be glad of a game by correspondence. The losing party to pay the postage. Address, G. W. Barber, 17, Parsonage-walk, Newington-butts, London, S.E.

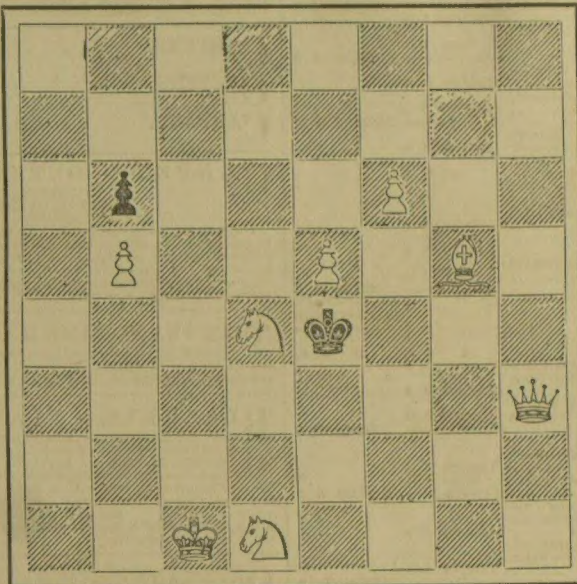
SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 1615.

WHITE. BLACK. WHITE. BLACK.
1. Q to K R sq B to Q B 6th 3. Q to Q R sq (ch), and mates next move.
2. B to Q 5th (dis. ch) K to Kt 7th

PROBLEM No. 1617.

By Mr. F. H. BENNETT.

BLACK.



WHITE.
White to play, and mate in three moves.

MATCH BETWEEN MESSRS. BURN AND OWEN.

The subjoined beautiful Game was recently played in the match now pending between the Rev. J. OWEN and Mr. BURN, jun., of Liverpool. At the time we went to press the score stood—Mr. Burn, 10; Mr. Owen, 4.

(Queen's Gambit Accepted.)

WHITE (Mr. O.) BLACK (Mr. B.)
1. P to Q 4th P to Q 4th
2. P to Q B 4th P takes P
The capture of the Pawn leads to a far more interesting class of game than the ordinary method of declining the gambit by 2. P to K 3rd.
3. P to K 4th
This may be fairly ventured, but it is not quite so good as 3. P to K 3rd.
3. P to K 4th P to K 4th
4. P to Q 5th P to K B 4th
5. B takes P Kt to K B 3rd
6. Kt to Q B 3rd
Interior, we think, to 6. Kt to K B 3rd.
6. P takes P P takes P
7. Kt takes P Kt takes Kt
8. Q to K R 5th (ch) P to Kt 3rd
9. Q takes K P (ch) Q to K 2nd
10. Q takes R Q to Q K 5th (ch)
11. K to B sq Q takes B (ch)
12. Kt to K 2nd B to Kt 5th
The best reply. Had he played 12. Q takes P 3rd, the continuation would have been—
13. B to B 6th Q to B 2nd
14. P to K B 3rd Kt to K B 3rd
15. R to K sq, and wins
13. P to K B 3rd Kt to Q B 3rd
An admirable conception. The capture of either of the pieces left en prise would be immediately disastrous to White.
14. B to K B 4th
If 14. P takes Q Kt, Black wins at once by 14. Castles. Similarly, if he ventured to capture the Bish, the game would have been continued:—
14. P takes B Q to Q B 4th

WHITE (Mr. O.) BLACK (Mr. B.)
15. K to R sq Q to B 7th (ch)
16. K to Q sq Castles, and wins.
17. Q takes R P Kt to K 2nd
18. R to Q B sq
White plays in evident unconsciousness of the danger by which he is beleaguered.
16. Kt takes Q P
A master-touch, fully in character with the rest of the combination. We have rarely seen in modern chess anything finer than Mr. Burn's play in this little game.
17. Q takes K Kt P
This loses the game off-hand; but in any case, we believe, the result must have been the same. His best move is, apparently, 17. Q to K R 4th, which would have given rise to the following curious variation:—
17. Q to K R 4th Q takes Kt (ch)
18. K takes Q Kt takes B (ch)
19. K to B sq Kt to Q 7th (ch)
20. K to B 2nd
[17–20. K to Kt sq, Black wins the Queen by 20. Kt to R 6th (best).]
20. Kt to Q 6th (ch)
21. K to K 2nd (best) B to K B 4th
22. K takes Kt
[17–22. K to R 4th, Black replies with 22. B to Q K 5th.]
22. B to Q 5th (ch)
23. K to K 2nd B to Q B 5th (ch)
[17–23. K to K 3rd, then 23. B to Q B 4th (ch).]
24. K to B sq (best) R to K sq (ch)
24. K to B sq (best) Kt takes K, with a winning game.
17. Q takes Kt (ch)
18. K takes Q Kt takes B (ch), and White resigned in a few moves.

CHESS AT CAMBRIDGE.

In the following Game, which was played a short time ago, Messrs. DE SOYRES and KEYNES consulted against Messrs. SMITH and NEVILLE.

(Knight's Defence to the King's Bishop's Game.)

WHITE (Messrs. DE S. & K.) BLACK (Messrs. S. & N.)
1. P to K 4th P to K 4th
2. B to Q B 4th Kt to K B 3rd
3. P to K B 4th
This is inferior to either 3. Kt to K B 3rd or P to Q 4th.
3. Kt takes P
Black's best move at this point is 3. P to Q 4th.
4. P to Q 3rd Q to R 5th (ch)
5. P to Kt 3rd Kt takes Kt P
6. Kt to K B 3rd Q to K B 4th
7. R to K Kt sq P to K 5th
A tempting move, but in reality very inferior to 7. Kt to K B 4th.
8. Kt to Kt 5th
We should have greatly preferred 8. B takes K B P (ch), followed, on the Queen taking the Bishop, by 9. Kt to Kt 5th, &c.
8. Q takes K R P
9. B to K 3rd Kt to K B 4th, and White resigned.

WHITE (Messrs. DE S. & K.) BLACK (Messrs. S. & N.)
10. B takes P (ch) Kt to K 2nd
11. B to Q B 5th (ch) P to Q 3rd
12. P takes P P takes B
13. Kt to K B 3rd Q takes K B P
14. Kt to Q B 3rd Q to K 6th (ch)
15. K to B sq Q takes Q Kt
Very ingeniously conceived.
16. P takes Kt Q to K B 3rd
17. Q to K 2nd (ch) K takes B
18. Kt to Kt 5th (ch) K to Kt sq
19. Q to Q B 4th (ch) B to K 3rd
20. Kt takes B P to Q Kt 4th
21. Q to Kt 4th Kt to K 2nd
22. Q R to Q sq Kt to Q 4th
23. Q to K 4th P to Q B 3rd
24. K to K 2nd Kt to Q B 5th
25. R to Q 7th R to K sq
26. K to Q sq Kt takes Kt P (ch)
27. K to B sq Kt to Q B 5th, and White resigned.

CHESS INTELLIGENCE.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY CHESS CLUB.—The officers for this term are:—President, H. R. H. Prince Leopold; vice-president, Hon. H. C. Plunkett; treasurer, Mr. A. C. Coupland; secretary, Mr. W. Purvatt; members of committee, Mr. C. Tracey, Mr. H. Gladstone. We understand that a challenge has been sent to Cambridge to play the annual match.

NEW COLLECTION OF PROBLEMS.—We understand that Messrs. Pierce are about to publish a collection of problems by the leading living English composers, comprising between 400 and 500 positions. In most cases, we believe, the selection will be left to the authors themselves. Such a volume could not fail to be interesting.

WILLS AND BEQUESTS.

The will, dated Dec. 29 last, of Mr. Roger Lyon Jones, late of Prince's Park, Liverpool, who died on the 1st ult., has been proved, at the Liverpool district registry, by Joseph Birmingham Miller and Edward Whitley, the executors, the personal estate being sworn under £350,000. The testator bequeaths legacies to the following religious and charitable institutions in Liverpool and the neighbourhood—viz., to the Liverpool Medical School, to found a scholarship, £2000; to the Liverpool Bluecoat Hospital; the Royal Infirmary, Liverpool; the Royal Southern Hospital, Liverpool; the Liverpool Scripture Readers' Society (the interest only to be applied for the benefit of the society, and the principal to be invested by the society for that purpose), the Liverpool Pastoral Aid Society, and the Church Missionary Society for Foreign Missions, £1000 each;—to the Female Orphan Asylum, Myrtle-street; the Infants' Orphan Asylum, Myrtle-street; the Asylum for Orphan Boys, Myrtle-street; the Liverpool Seamen's Orphan Institution Endowment Fund, and the Northern Hospital, Liverpool, £500 each;—to the School for the Indigent Blind, the Liverpool training-ship Indefatigable; the Children's Infirmary, Myrtle-street, Liverpool; the School for the Deaf and Dumb, the Liverpool Workshops for the Blind, and the Clergy Orphan School at Warrington, £250 each;—to the Eye and Ear Infirmary, £200;—to the Kirkdale Industrial Ragged Schools, Holy Trinity Industrial Schools, the Liverpool Industrial Ragged Schools; St. Paul's Schools, Prince's Park; the Liverpool Hospital for Cancer and Skin Diseases, and the Liverpool General Hospital for Consumption and Diseases of the Chest, £100 each, all free of duty;—to James Lyon, the grandson of his late half-brother, James Lyon, £3000; to his friend Horace Stuart, £200; to each of his god-children, £100; to his executor, Mr. Miller, free of duty, £1000; to his faithful butler, Richard Jones, an annuity of £90; upon trust for Mary Kerr, the daughter of his late half-brother, James Lyon, for life, and then to her children, £5000; upon trust for Mrs. Johnston, a granddaughter of his said half-brother, for life, and then to her children, £1500; upon trust for Mrs. Grocott and Mrs. Corderoy (two other granddaughters of his said half-brother) and for Mrs. Wainwright, for their respective lives, and then for their children, £2000 each; upon trust for the children of his late uncle, William Jones, £3000. The testator directs all his real estate to be sold, and his executors are to stand possessed of the proceeds thereof and of the large residue of his personal estate, after payment of the foregoing legacies, and of his debts, funeral and testamentary expenses, upon trust for all or any of the charitable and religious institutions mentioned in his will, or such other religious and charitable institutions in Liverpool and the neighbourhood and in such manner as they shall think fit.

The will, dated July 11, 1870, of the Hon. John Boyle, late of Rockwood, Torquay, who died on Dec. 6 last, was proved on the 19th ult. by Gerald Edmund Boyle, Robert Frederick Boyle, and Edmund Montague Boyle, the three sons of the deceased, the executors, the personal estate being sworn under £80,000. The testator bequeaths to his daughter Georgiana Olivia (the wife of Rear Admiral Richard Robert Quin), £3000; to his daughter-in-law, Lady Elizabeth Theresa Boyle, £300; to his brother, the Hon. and Rev. Richard Cavendish Townshend Boyle, £100; to Sophia Gibbons, an annuity of £30; to Elizabeth Hexter, one of £20; and to Robert Sims, one of £40. All his freehold, copyhold, and leasehold property and the residue of his personal estate he leaves to his three sons.

The will, dated Dec. 22, 1870, of the Right Hon. Rowland, Viscount Hill, late of Hawkstone, Salop, who died on the 3rd ult., was proved on the 5th inst. by the Rev. John Hill and Colonel Richard Frederick Hill, the brothers, the executors, the personal estate being sworn under £60,000. A sum of £30,000 is charged on his real estates, under the powers given to him by settlement, in favour of his younger children. The residue of his personal estate he leaves to his eldest son.

The will and two codicils of Mr. Henry Heffer, of Springfield, Norwood, and of Long-acre, who died Dec. 23 last, were proved on the 25th ult. by Mrs. Clara Ann Heffer, the widow, Daniel Earl, and A. R. Johnson, the executors, under £50,000.

The will and codicil of Mr. Chessborough Claudius Macdonald, formerly of Queensland and late of No. 36, Oxford-terrace, Hyde Park, who died on July 31 last, has been proved by John Gilchrist, the acting executor, under £25,000.

The Duke of Westminster has accepted the post of president of the proposed River Dee training-ship, and subscribed £300 to the fund.

The Bristol Town Council has resolved to build two extra wings to the City Lunatic Asylum, at a cost of £13,000, to accommodate the largely increasing number of pauper lunatics.

The Shakers of the New Forest have accepted the sum offered them by the Sheriff of Hampshire as compensation for the injury to their goods, which was the result of the distraint.

The ship British General, of Liverpool, arrived in the Tay on Tuesday, having on board the crew of the Juno, of Grimsby, five in number. The Juno was wrecked in the North Sea on the 6th, and the crew betook themselves to their boat, and, happily, were shortly afterwards discovered by the British General. The men have been forwarded to their homes.

Mr. William Abbott has issued his half-yearly analysis of the joint-stock banks, and gives in minute detail the particulars of the subscribed and paid-up capital, shares, reserve funds, deposits, assets, working expenses, profits, dividends, &c. A comparison of the principal items with the figures of the corresponding preceding half-year is also contained in the analysis, besides other facts of interest.

The following is the title of the essay to which the Howard medal of the Statistical Society will be awarded in November, 1875. The essays to be sent in on or before June 30:—"The state of the dwellings of the poor in the rural districts of England, with special regard to the improvements that have taken place since the middle of the eighteenth century, and their influence on the health and morals of the inmates."

There is now living at St. Bartholomew's Almshouses, at Newbury, a widow named Coxeter, who is said to have attained the age of one hundred years on the 1st inst., having been born at Witney, in Oxfordshire, on Feb. 1, 1775. The old lady's health is remarkably good, and her intellect very clear. Time seems to have told alone upon her sight and hearing. Mrs. Coxeter, like her mother, had eleven children.

The returns of emigration compiled by the Government Emigration officials at Liverpool show that during the month of January there left Liverpool 2945 emigrants, or 52 less than in the corresponding month of 1874. Of vessels sailing under the provisions of the Government Emigration Act, there left for the United States eleven, with 1304 passengers, and one for Victoria with 387. Of vessels "not under the Act," twenty-four sailed to the United States, with 1119 passengers; two to Nova Scotia, with 47; two to China, with 10; and five to South America, with 78 passengers.

NEW MUSIC.

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MUSICAL BOX DEPOT for NICOLE FRERES' celebrated Instruments. Boxes of sweet, rich tone, in walnut or rosewood cases, from 4s upwards. A fresh consignment has just arrived. List of Tunes, gratis, on application.—11 and 12, Cornhill, London, E.C.

MUSICAL BOXES, 15s. 6d. to £50. Musical Boxes with the new Zither Accompaniments, £12 12s. Musical Boxes by Nicole Freres. Illustrated Catalogue of Musical Boxes, 4 stamps.—MILLIKIN & LAWLEY, 168, Strand.

ALUMINUM WATCHES, £1 1s., £1 10s., £1 15s., £2 2s. Marvellous timekeepers. Same as supplied by us to Prince of Wales. Small for ladies. Very elegant. Illustrations, 4 stamps.—MILLIKIN & LAWLEY, 168, Strand.

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LONDON AND COUNTY BANKING

Established in 1836, and incorporated in 1874, under "The Companies Act, 1862."

Subscribed Capital—£3,500,000, in 75,000 Shares of £50 each. Report adopted at the Annual General Meeting, Feb. 4, 1875. The Directors have much pleasure in laying before the Proprietors the balance-sheet of the Bank for the half year ended on Dec. 31 last, which shows that, after paying interest to customers and all charges, allowing for rebate and making provision for bad and doubtful debts, and for interest accrued on new shares, the net profit amounted to £124,656 15s. 1d. This, added to £23,279 14s. 6d., brought from the last account, makes a total of £147,936 9s. 5d., from which they have transferred the sum of £15,000 to the credit of Premises Account.

The Directors recommend the payment of a Dividend of 10 per cent for the half year free of income tax, which will absorb £120,000; and that the balance of £18,936 9s. 5d. then remaining be carried forward to Profit and Loss Account.

The present Dividend, added to that paid to June 30, will make 20 per cent for the year 1874.

The Directors announce the retirement from the Board of Frederick Yonke, Esq., and the election of William Henry Stone, Esq., in his place.

The Directors retiring by rotation are Nathaniel Alexander, Esq., Thomas Tyngnam Bernard, Esq., and William Nicol, Esq., who, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election. The continued increase in the business of the Bank having made it imperative necessary to enlarge the Head Office, the Directors have acquired the freehold of adjoining properties, which they have arranged to rebuild and incorporate with their existing premises. They have further acquired the leasehold interest for a long term of premises in Abchurch-lane, in direct communication with the Bank, and have already entered on their occupation.

The Proprietors were informed at the Meetings in February and August last that the Directors had under consideration a scheme for granting retiring and other allowances to Officers of the Bank. A resolution will be submitted to the meeting authorizing the Directors to carry out this intention, under such rules and regulations as may be deemed by them desirable. The Dividend, amounting to £2 per share, free of income tax, will be payable at the Head Office or at any of the Branches, on or after Monday, the 15th instant.

BALANCE SHEET			
of the London and County Banking Company, Dec. 31, 1874.			
To Capital paid up	1,300,000 0 0	£	s. d.
Instalment received in respect of New Shares	148,210 0 0		
Reserve Fund	600,000 0 0	1,348,210 0 0	
Instalment received in respect of New Shares	74,105 0 0		
Amount due by the Bank for Customers' Balances, &c. ..	19,892,586 10 11	674,105 0 0	
Liabilities on Acceptances, covered by Securities	2,780,005 8 8		
Profit and Loss Balance brought from last Account ..	23,279 14 4	22,672,591 19 7	
Reserve to meet interest accrued on New Shares ..	468 15 0		
Gross Profit for the Half Year, after making provision for Bad and Doubtful Debts	414,368 5 4		
Less amount transferred to Premises Account	15,000 0 0	429,116 14 8	
		£25,124,023 14 3	
Cr.			
By Cash on hand at Head Office and Branches, and with Bank of England	2,461,448 7 6	£	s. d.
Cash placed at Call and Notice covered by Securities	3,059,922 9 11	5,521,370 17 6	
Investments, viz: Government and Guaranteed Stocks	1,089,954 16 11		
Other Stocks and Securities	93,515 6 9	2,083,470 3 8	
Discounted Bills, and advances to Customers in Town and Country	14,113,465 8 6		
Liabilities of Customers for Drafts accepted by the Bank (as per contra)	2,780,005 8 8	16,893,470 17 2	
Freehold Premises in Lombard-street and Nicholas-lane, Freehold and Leasehold Property at the Branches, with Fixtures and Fittings	423,077 19 8		
Less amount transferred from Profit and Loss	15,000 0 0	438,077 19 8	
Interest paid to Customers		103,375 15 1	
Salaries and all other expenses at Head Office and Branches, including Income Tax on Profits and Salaries		123,258 1 3	
		£25,124,023 14 3	

By Balance brought forward from last Account .. £29,279 14 4
Reserve to meet interest accrued on New Shares .. 468 15 0
Gross Profit for the Half-Year, after making provision for Bad and Doubtful Debts .. 414,368 5 4
£244,116 14 8

We, the undersigned, have examined the foregoing Balance-Sheet, and have found the same to be correct.
Jan. 24, 1875. (Signed) WILLIAM NORMAN, RICHARD H. SWAINE, STEPHEN SYMONDS, } Auditors.
By order, GEO. GOSCH, Secretary.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.
To Interest paid to Customers, as above .. £103,375 15 1
Expenses 123,258 1 3
Rebate on Bills not due, carried to New Account .. 60,796 8 11
Dividend of 10 per cent for Half Year .. 120,000 0 0
Reserve to meet interest accrued on New Shares .. 3,750 0 0
Transferred to the credit of Premises Account .. 15,000 0 0
Balance carried forward 16,936 9 5
£444,116 14 8

By Balance brought forward from last Account .. £29,279 14 4
Reserve to meet interest accrued on New Shares .. 468 15 0
Gross Profit for the Half-Year, after making provision for Bad and Doubtful Debts .. 414,368 5 4
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THE PALM-MALL. This RESTAURANT is removed to more spacious and commodious Premises, 14, Regent-street, Waterloo-place (embracing the late Gallery of Illustration, which is now available for Regimental Dinners and similar parties). Entrance to Private Rooms in Carlton-street, adjacent.

EDUCATION, Superior, Blackheath, for YOUNG LADIES. Terms, £35 to £40, inclusive, under the best masters. Home comforts.—Address J., care of Mr. Udell, Post-office, Dartmouth-row, Blackheath.

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